

# Keep it Going

Tracking Improvement Beyond the Initial  
Implementation Stage



MALNUTRITION QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

These materials were developed by the Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii), a project of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Avalere Health, and other stakeholders who provided guidance and expertise through a collaborative partnership. Support provided by Abbott.

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## Section Take Aways

Following your completion of this section you will be ready to:

- Prepare to track ongoing implementation progress
- Consider methods for dissemination

## Continue to Track Progress Over Time

It is important to continue to monitor performance beyond the initial implementation phase. Using similar principles to those employed in PDSA cycles, continuous evaluation, and tracking of performance over time creates the opportunity to remove or modify practices that are no longer working or are not as effective as initially anticipated. Tracking progress over time not only helps facilitate implementation, but at the conclusion of the project gives teams an overall picture of strengths or weaknesses and the opportunity to refine components of change in a targeted and systematic way for the future.

While you may not need to evaluate the quality indicators as frequently as you did during your initial implementation of the initiative, regular assessment of the quality indicators will enable your team to identify any declines in performance. In addition, there are a number of outcomes, such as infection rates and length of stay, that could be assessed once the workflow is fully established and there are sufficient data to support more accurate analyses. The Project Team may decide how frequently progress data will be reviewed. But at a minimum, performance should be evaluated on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Templates to aid statistical analyses and other ongoing implementation tracking and reporting activities over time are available on the [American Society for Quality's website](#).

## Disseminate Findings

While identifying where a quality improvement process can be refined is important, celebrating successes is also important. Acknowledge when your team has achieved positive results, regardless of how small, to encourage everyone to continue their good work.

In addition to celebrating successes and quality improvement, the Project Team should consider avenues for disseminating findings, such as journal publications, conferences, and online forums (e.g. the AHRQ Health Care Innovations Exchange).<sup>53</sup>

You may even seek nomination to healthcare excellence awards such as the John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards.<sup>54</sup> This not only advertises the success of the organization at effectively implementing a quality improvement program, but is a mechanism for disseminating best practices to other organizations and ultimately promoting the overall goal of the initiative – to advance high-quality patient-driven care for patients with malnutrition.