



# Publishing Your Quality Improvement Work

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# Publishing is a Process

- You can never start preparing and planning too early
- Document, document, document
  - Everything you tried, how you tried it, when you tried it, what you found
  - Keep copies of instrument/tool iterations, your A3, etc
- Journal key decisions and lessons learned along the way
- Put a date on everything!



# Identifying Co-Authors

- ICMJE Guidelines
  - Substantial contributions to the conception or design of work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
  - Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
  - Final approval of the version to be published; AND
  - Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are investigated and resolved.
- You can provide colleagues the opportunity to meet the criteria for authorship; You cannot “make them” an author
- Decide who will be provided with the opportunity to meet the criteria for authorship up front



# Finding Your 'Story'

- Why is this quality problem of interest beyond your institution?
  - Common problem? New contextual changes or challenges?
- What is the evidence gap in practice that is being addressed?
- What was the aim of your project?
- What measures are critical to this story?
  - Donabedian's Structure → Process → Outcome
  - Process usually fine as long as tightly linked to an outcome of importance
  - Don't forget about balancing measure



# Selecting a Target Journal

- Strategies: find an ‘example’ paper; check out the references; peruse a few recent table of contents/abstracts
- IHI website provides a list of journals (scroll down to bottom to find top tier journals)
  - The BMJ; BMJ Quality and Safety; Health Affairs; JAMA IM; Joint Commission on Quality and Patient Safety; JAMA; The Lancet; NEJM
  - Don’t forget specialty journals
- Who is the target audience for your message?



# Drafting the Manuscript

- Review “Instructions for Authors”
  - Be careful to take note of publication fees and word limits
- QI audience is often interested in whether they should try something similar in their institution
  - Requires description of the solution
    - Why did you choose this solution? What is your theory of change? (“key drivers”)
  - How was it iteratively tested, refined and ultimately implemented?
    - What method you used (Six Sigma, Lean, etc)
    - Include detail of what you tried (what you implemented; how you implemented it; who did what)
  - Illustrate your findings overtime using Run/Control Charts
    - Which interventions resulted in what change(s)? For which patients?
    - What within your organization was critical to success? (and failure?)



# The Discussion Section: Ending with a Bang

- First paragraph provides short summary of most important findings
- Middle paragraphs
  - Place findings in context of what is known
  - Offer your reflections on implications of your findings and lessons learned (why did something work? Not work?)
  - Articulate critical limitations and their potential effects
- End with a short conclusion (that does not speculate beyond the results)



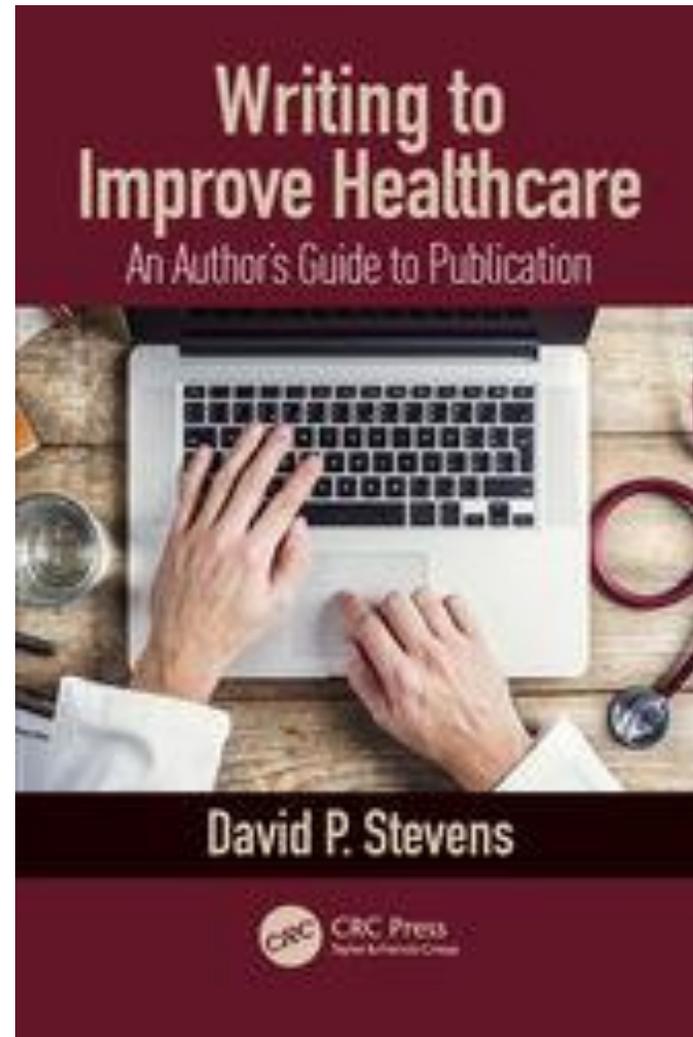
# Online Resources

- SQUIRE Guidelines
  - <http://www.squire-statement.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=471>
- International Committee of Medical Editors
  - <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>
- IHI (Publishing Your Work)
  - <http://www.ihl.org/education/IHIOpenSchool/resources/Pages/WhereToSubmitYourWritingQIFriendlyPeerReviewedJournals.aspx>
- University of Wisconsin and the Health Innovation Program
  - [https://www.hipxchange.org/QI\\_Publish](https://www.hipxchange.org/QI_Publish)



# New Book Available

“... a 'what and how to' guide to writing for successful scholarly publication in the emerging fields of healthcare improvement and patient safety ... offers practical advice that includes preparation and organization of a scholarly healthcare improvement manuscript, where to submit ... how to take full advantage of coauthors...”



# Discussion Questions

- What quality problem is being addressed?
- What evidence gap is presented? What is the aim of the QI initiative?
- How did they measure success? What balancing measure was considered?
- What was the change theory underlying the QI initiative? What were the key drivers?
- How was this tested?
- What were the key findings from the initiative?
- Are the reflections and lessons learned articulated in the Discussion supported?
- Do you have enough information to implement the successful intervention in your organization? If not, what other information is needed?
- Who is the primary audience for the paper?

