Background

Northwestern Medicine Breast Cancer Quality Improvement Collaborative

- The Northwestern Medicine Breast Cancer Quality Improvement Collaborative (NM BCQIC) is a novel health system-wide QI collaborative of 5 hospitals (Table).
- Primary Goal: Improve best practice guideline adherence, quality of care, and outcomes while reducing clinical variation health system-wide.

QI Knowledge

- Collaborative participants generally had little formal training and variable experience with QI prior to joining NM BCQIC.

Objective

- Our objective was to evaluate baseline QI knowledge of oncology providers participating in a multi-institutional QI collaborative.

Methods

- The QI-KAT (Quality Improvement Knowledge Application Tool) is a validated QI knowledge assessment with multiple choice and free-responses sections.
- An oncology-focused adaptation of the QI-KAT (Figure 1) was administered through REDCap to NM BCQIC members shortly after collaborative inception.
- Four members of the NM BCQIC Coordinating Center scored each de-identified exam utilizing a rubric-based scoring tool (50 total points).
- Discrepancies in scores were discussed until consensus was achieved.

Results - Continued

- The QI-KAT completion rate was 72.7% (16/22) among eligible local team members
- The mean overall score was 69% with a median score of 66%
  - Individual scores ranged from 40% to 96%
  - Several common themes were identified:
    1. A majority of participants successfully identified the quality problem and were able to create an effective statement to communicate the problem;
    2. Most were able to name the appropriate stakeholders in a QI initiative;
    3. Many had difficulty recognizing drivers of poor performance; and
    4. Many struggled to articulate how to institute an effective change in the system in order to improve performance.

Results

- Individual feedback reports were distributed to participants with personalized feedback on their strengths and areas for improvement (Figure 2).

Conclusions

- Administering an adapted QI-KAT to oncology providers participating in a multi-hospital breast cancer-focused QI collaborative revealed that they generally lack knowledge in how to effectively carry out QI.
- The QI-KAT provides specific information and themes that can be utilized to develop a focused educational curriculum to equip participants to implement and sustain successful cancer-focused QI initiatives.

Table: Participating hospital characteristics

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Research Support

- Individual feedback reports were distributed to participants with personalized feedback on their strengths and areas for improvement.

Citation