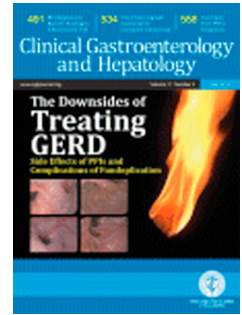


# Accepted Manuscript

Quality Improvement Primer Series: How to sustain a Quality Improvement Effort

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## Quality Improvement in Gastroenterology: A Primer Series

### *Article 3: How to sustain a Quality Improvement Effort*

#### Series Review

*In this series you are a community-based urban general gastroenterologist asked by hospital administration to improve your current group adenoma detection rate (ADR) of 19% to the established target of 25% amongst each individual endoscopist within the group over a 12-month period.*

*The team has implemented standardized endoscopist report cards over the past 9 months. At present, ADR has been over 25% for all practitioners for 4 consecutive months. The QI team meets to determine how to sustain the gains long term.*

#### Introduction

Sustainability of improved outcomes has been defined as: “When new ways of working and improved outcomes become the norm”<sup>1</sup>. This incorporates a number of important concepts. “New ways of working” means that a change has been made in the way care has been provided. This includes interventions such as a new policy, implementation of a checklist, or a new clinical pathway. “Improved outcomes” implies that the result of the intervention has been measured and has demonstrated an improvement. “Becomes the norm” means that this change has now become a part of standard work and does not need ongoing support to continue.

While a great deal of literature currently exists focusing on initiation and implementation of quality improvement (QI) activities, much less has been written on sustaining efforts

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