Let's talk about Quality Improvement

- "How does QI fit into VPIL?"
- "Why is QI important?"
- "What is the QI project?"

For many years now the second year VPIL curriculum has focused on quality improvement with the students completing a quality improvement project. The goal is to work together as a team on a clinically-based project that could potentially give back to the clinic where they have built a collaborative relationship. This experiential learning project is then presented at a Capstone event each April.

The VPIL 2 student teams having been learning about QI during the fall semester. The students have been asked to complete didactic modules in quality improvement from the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School. The main points have been emphasized in the seminar time, including constructing a focused Aim statement and starting with small changes to the system. The difference between quality improvement and research has also been stressed. For instance, QI should not require an IRB!

All of the student teams have an assigned Capstone Coach who regularly checks in on aim statements and progress. We also allow time during seminars for the students to discuss their projects with the coaches as well as other VPIL faculty. Once a strong aim statement is created, the student teams are asked to make small changes and observe their effects. There should be plenty of clinic time in February and March for gathering data. The academic posters describing their projects will be presented at Capstone on April 10. We hope preceptors will be able to attend!

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School offers courses and modules in the following topics along with the links to the direct course:

- Engaging trainees in quality and safety - link
- Understanding the fundamentals of quality and safety as a faculty - link
- The role of didactic learning in quality improvement - link
- A roadmap for facilitating experiential learning in quality improvement - link

Assignments

This semester, the VPIL 1 students will have 2 major assignments: a medication reconciliation and an advocacy assignment. Each assignment will have a specific deliverable. For medication reconciliation, each student on the team is required to perform a medication reconciliation on a different patient. They have been instructed to obtain the patient’s best possible medication history and resolve any discrepancies they identify. This assignment is due at the end of February.

The second assignment is an advocacy assignment. The students have been
given the directive to choose ONE of the THREE following options:

1. Create a resource list for something that is a need for your clinic (Example: a list of community mental health clinics).
2. Identify one piece of current or recent (within the past year) legislation that affects your clinic population and write a brief description of the bill and how it affects the clinic population. Each student on the team will write a letter to their elected official urging them to either support or oppose this legislation. This letter will serve as the deliverable.
3. Choose one or two patients from your clinic to follow over the course of the semester (3 months) and create a panel of patients. The deliverable: write a one page or less write-up about the patient panel following an already outlined format.

This assignment is due in the end of April.

By understanding the assignments that are expected of your students, you can offer the support to see these assignments to completion. It also gives you insight to the topics covered outside the clinic setting and in the classroom.

Norma Edwards, RN, BSN, MSN
FNP
Clinic: Vanderbilt Eskind Adult Diabetes Center

Norma Edwards has been a family nurse practitioner for 20 years. She has been involved with VPIL since 2017.

**How did you become involved in VPIL?**
I learned about the program from one of my colleagues. It sounded interesting to me and I have always enjoyed working with students. I wish they had programs like this when I was a student. It really prepares a student for their profession in the real world.

**Why are you drawn to interprofessional collaboration?**
I am drawn to Interprofessional collaboration because I believe it is where health care is headed! IPC is critical for the success of patient-centered care. It has shown to improve patient outcomes as well as provide benefits to health care providers.

**Any words of wisdom for VPIL students?**
Treat your rotations as if it was your real job, learn as much as possible about what your role is as well as other members of the team and their roles in patient care, make connections with people. Some of these connections will last a lifetime and they could be beneficial in the future.

**Any words of wisdom for new VPIL preceptors?**
As a preceptor you always learn more than what you teach your students. It is a privilege to have a small input in these young new professionals and their careers.

**What's one fun fact people don't know about you?**
While in High School and early college I wanted to be a missionary.
Capstone Event
April 10, 2019
5:00pm - 7:00pm
Eskind Biomedical Library

Topics covered this month:
An intro to Occupational Therapy
Medication Reconciliation in clinic assignment

Topics covered in the coming months:
An introduction to conflict management
An introduction to occupational therapy

VPIL 1 Clinics
- Adolescent & Young Adult Health
- Adult Emergency Department
- Comprehensive Care Clinic
- Stem Cell Transplant
- Mercury Courts
- Children’s Hospital PICU
- Otolaryngology
- Peds Gastroenterology
- Peds Neurogenetics & Metabolism
- Eskind Adult Diabetes
- Vanderbilt Interventional Radiology Clinic

VPIL 2 Clinics
- Cardiac Surgery
- Comprehensive Care Clinic
- Drug Dependency OB/GYN
- General Pediatrics
- Psychiatry Psychotic Disorders
- Peds Hematology/Oncology
- Pediatric Surgery
- Vanderbilt Family Medicine
- General Infections Disease
- Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
- Vanderbilt Urgent Care
- Osher - Integrative Medicine
- Metro Clinics

Visit the Preceptor Portal on our website! The portal includes an overview of the program, what the students are learning throughout their 2 years in the program, what to expect when being a preceptor, helpful hints on what to do during downtime, and much more!

Preceptor Portal

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