



The Six Building Blocks Clinical Advisor

We recommend that Practice Facilitators guiding clinics through Six Building Blocks opioid management improvements identify a clinical advisor to help them through the process. If possible, before beginning work with a clinic, identify a passionate clinician advisor (usually a physician, can be a nurse practitioner or physician assistant) familiar with management of chronic pain and opioid medications who you can call on to:

- Answer clinical questions that sites pose;
- Review resources that sites might ask about;
- Attend occasional meetings.

A clinical advisor could be:

- From within your organization;
- Outside your organization.

A clinical advisor should be:

- Respected by clinic providers/staff;
- Passionate about opioid management;
- Available to you.

A clinical advisor might be:

- A supporter of your work in the organization;
- An attendee at occasional meetings with the clinics, especially if providers are present (e.g., kickoff);
- The person to share more challenging information with clinic providers (e.g., high percentages of patients on high dose opioids, unequal distribution of patients with chronic pain across providers).

Word of mouth is an excellent way to search out a clinical advisor. Be sure to meet with your potential clinical advisor to make sure they know what is involved and agree. While we highly encourage identifying a clinical advisor, practice facilitators have done this work without one. Consider your own skills and familiarity with quality initiatives to draw on strengths to do this work without one if necessary.

