



Is Implementing the Six Building Blocks Independently Right for Us?

Before beginning the comprehensive three-stage approach to implementing the Six Building Blocks at your organization, review this readiness assessment.

Is our organization ready for change?

- Have we identified opioid prescribing as an area of concern and prioritized it as an area of focus?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how big of a priority is improving opioid medication management? Why? What are the competing demands that will prevent us from making this a priority?
- Is organization leadership supportive of making systems-based improvements to the management of chronic pain and opioid prescribing? Are care teams supportive?
- Do we have any major changes happening in the coming 15 months that may affect our ability to commit to the Six Building Blocks program?

Do we have engaged leadership with time for the work?

- Do we have committed providers and staff (e.g., medical assistants, nurses, social workers, behavioral health specialists, pharmacists, and/or other staff who are willing to engage in and champion the project (general time needed: 2-4 hours per month)?

Do we have the capacity to track and measure data?

- Do staff have dedicated time to work on data collection and monitoring? (time needed dependent on type of system and resources)
- Will we be able to identify our patients who are using long term opioid therapy?
- Do we have a way to look at opioid prescribing data by clinic, by provider, and/or by patient (e.g., querying the EHR, creating discrete fields in the EHR, software that interacts with the EHR, an external Excel spreadsheet and staff time to maintain it)?
- Of the top 10 health IT/data reporting priorities we have, where does this project fit?

Do we empanel patients?

- Are we willing to assign each patient using long term opioid therapy to one care team for their chronic pain care and opioid medication management?

Do we have quality improvement experience?

- Do we have quality improvement experience (e.g., Lean, Model for Improvement)?
- Do we have a staff member with quality improvement skills and experience who is interested in and available to lead this process improvement project? (general time needed: 2-8 hours per month)
- Are we willing to provide time for a staff member to gain quality improvement skills if we do not have anyone with experience? For instance, take the online quality improvement introductory courses available at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement?
- Do we have a clinician who is passionate about improving the care of patients with chronic pain using long-term opioid therapy, and who has time to champion the work?

Do we use team-based care?

- Are we willing to engage the whole care team (e.g., providers, nurses, MAs) in taking care of patients using long term opioid therapy?