

Identifying the Right Applied Learning Project

Scoping an Appropriate IDEAS Project Level Aim

1. Scope for Learning Experience

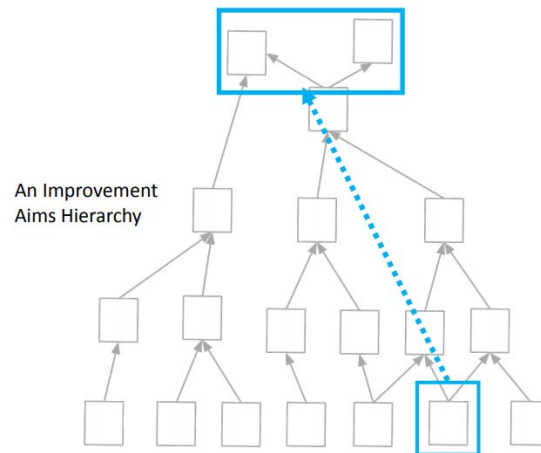
The applied learning project takes place over six months and needs to be scoped so that the selected team can work through all phases of a quality improvement project from team recruitment and project definition to current state assessment to completing multiple tests of change. This means that the AIM of the applied learning project must be *manageable* for a six month timeline. In reality, the six month timeline will only lead to modest improvement (at best) and the applied learning project is meant to be a catalyst for *ongoing* improvement.

2. Start with What Matters to You- The Patient

The applied learning project should be *meaningful* and a good place to start is to ask: what is important to the patient and is our process producing an outcome that is meeting their needs? Achieving this overall patient need may not be achieved within a six month time period but what is important is for improvement teams to keep this outcome as their “big dot” aim. The applied learning project should be aligned to this big dot aim and directly contribute to its accomplishment in association with other smaller improvement projects focused on micro-level factors (e.g. a process for primary care providers to ask the surprise question or a process to communicate the discharge plan of care as patients transition from an acute care setting to hospice setting).

For the difference between bit dot and IDEAS project aims, please review the table below.

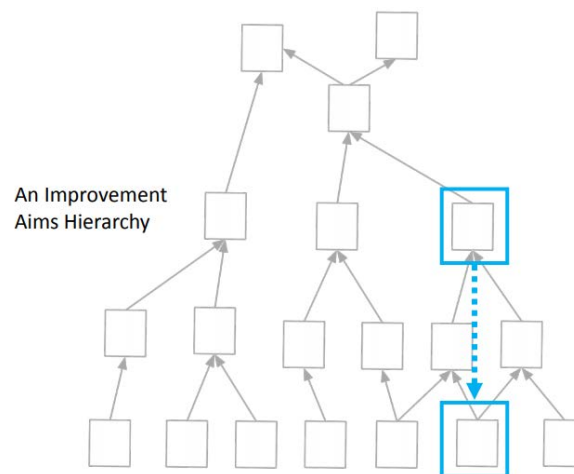
BIG DOT/SYSTEM AIM	IDEAS PROJECT AIM
Increase the percentage of patients with palliative care needs who die in their setting of choice to 20% by December 1, 2018	By March 31, 2016, we will increase the identification of patients with palliative care needs from 2.6% to at least 10%.
By April 1, 2018, there will be a 10% reduction in readmission rate for complex patients at General Campus for enrolled Health Links patients	By January 31, 2017, there will be a 20% increase in the number of existing Health Link patients that are re-connecting in person with their primary care team within 7 days
To reduce 30 day mental health and addition readmissions at General Campus by 10% by November 1, 2016	By June 20, 2016, 90% of mental health and additions patients discharged from General Campus will have a completed discharge checklist to take with them



Start with Why: What is the patient outcome?

3. Will Lead to Continued Improvement

The applied learning project is meant to be a catalyst for ongoing implementation of improvement related to a bigger picture strategy in your organization or region. It is important that the next part of the improvement is known and planned to ensure sustainable results.



Scope for Learning Experience: six months to modest improvement, close to the point of service.

Need Help Scoping an IDEAS Project Level Aim?

During the development and execution of their applied projects, quality improvement advisors from Health Quality Ontario (HQO) and epidemiologists from the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) support teams every step of the way. The advisors have agreed to be consulted if you have specific questions about project selection and corresponding team/individuals to work on the project. Please send an email to ideas@utoronto.ca and we will ensure that you are paired with an advisor.