

Sexual Health Integration as a Quality Improvement (QI) Project

Sexual health communication and documentation in oncology care is a measurable, clinically meaningful, and accreditation-aligned opportunity for Quality Improvement (QI). Because sexual health concerns are common yet often under-addressed, they provide a strong foundation for structured improvement initiatives.

Why This Is a Strong QI Focus

- Sexual health concerns are expected and clinically significant.
- Communication practices are measurable (documentation, screening, referrals).
- Improvement directly impacts patient quality of life.
- Integration aligns with Commission on Cancer (CoC) standards.

Sample QI Aim Statement

Increase documented sexual health normalization conversations from baseline to at least 75% of eligible oncology visits within 6 months using the 30-Second Patient Message™ framework.

Potential Measurable Metrics

- Percentage of visits with documented sexual health normalization.
- Referral rates to appropriate specialists.
- Patient-reported comfort discussing sexual health.
- Provider confidence scores (pre/post training).

Suggested QI Process Steps

- Complete a Sexual Health Needs Assessment to establish baseline data.
- Implement foundational provider training (30-Second Patient Message™).
- Deploy visible patient education materials in clinic spaces.
- Re-measure documentation and confidence metrics at 3–6 months.
- Adjust workflows and referral pathways based on findings.

Sexual health QI initiatives support CoC Standards 4.7 (Survivorship), 4.8 (Psychosocial Distress), 7.2 (Patient Education), and Standard 9 (Quality Improvement). After Cancer tools provide baseline data, structured training, workflow guidance, and follow-up measurement support to ensure sustainable improvement.