Quality improvement – training for better outcomes

*Briefing note for postgraduate deans and their teams – what does this mean for us?*

“In order to practise medicine in the 21st century, a core understanding of quality improvement is as important as our understanding of anatomy, physiology and biochemistry”

Stephen Powis, Medical Director, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, 2015

What is this?
A report containing a set of recommendations aimed at aligning efforts to embed quality improvement as a core component of all medical education and training.

Who is making these recommendations?
The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, together with a wide range of 35 stakeholder groups across the UK, including representatives from COPMeD, the GMC, patients, employers and the BMA.

What are the recommendations?
The recommendations arise from four work-streams; curriculum; education, learning and development; mapping examples in practice; strategic and supporting infrastructure. In brief, they are summarised as:

- It is essential to embed quality improvement into undergraduate and postgraduate medical training
- Every individual and organisation involved in medical education has a role to play in supporting trainees to make a difference
- The strength of quality improvement activity is how multi-professionals work and learn together, involving our patients in improving patient care
- Report includes examples of curricula content, how to deliver training, and examples of good practice, bringing the practicalities of quality improvement in action to life.
What should be our three key outcomes?

1. All doctors in postgraduate training are provided with opportunities to learn the skills necessary to engage with quality improvement activity.
2. All trainers are equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills to support their trainees effectively.
3. Local education providers have the necessary infrastructure to support trainees in conducting quality improvement activity.

What do I need to do now?
Review, and discuss the implementation of the report’s detailed recommendations with those responsible for the delivery of postgraduate medical education and training within your deanery or local Health Education England team.

Anything else?
Yes. Patients need to be involved at every level.

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Full report available on the Academy website http://www.aomrc.org.uk/