

Overview of the Qual IT Care Alliance

What is the Qual IT Care Alliance?

The Qual IT Care Alliance is a partnership between HealthEfficient, DCPCA, and MACHC. We are a HRSA-funded Health Center Controlled Network that works with community health centers nationwide to support the use of Health Information Technology to enhance quality of care, patient engagement, care coordination, provider satisfaction, and the use of cutting-edge data analytics. We provide support this by providing individualized practice consulting, training, topic-focused workgroups, peer sharing and collaboration among members, data analytics, webinars, conferences, HIT/IT solutions, access to funding opportunities, member discounts, and more.

Why join us?

Whether your health center wants to achieve better clinical outcomes, develop efficient workflows, or enhance and secure your HIT systems, the Qual IT Care Alliance Health Center Controlled Network can help your practice **become fully data-driven**. There is no cost to your health center for participating in our network.

Who are our members?

The Qual IT Care Alliance has 36 member health centers nationwide. We have members in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Florida, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Washington, DC. Our network of nearly 350 health center sites serves a diverse community of approximately 1 million patients, in rural, suburban, and urban settings.

What are the goals of Qual IT?

HRSA sets the broad goals for HCCNs and participating health centers. At the Qual IT Care Alliance, our focus areas and goals include:

- Improve **clinical quality and population health** with a particular focus on Diabetes, Hypertension, Cancer Screening, Opioid Use Disorder, and Covid-19.
- Increase **patient engagement** with care teams using all available HIT tools, including patient portals, telehealth, and remote patient monitoring.
- Reduce **provider burden** by strengthening the care team and systems supporting providers.
- Enhance **HIT security** and create a strong breach mitigation/response plan.
- Incorporate the **social determinants of health** into Electronic Health Records and patient care to improve health outcomes.
- Optimize and customize Electronic Health Record **workflows, templates, order sets**, and other features.
- Provide training and tools to make **health equity** part of practice, process, and organizational performance.

What support does Qual IT offer to its health centers?

The Qual IT team provides HRSA-funded support and expertise at no cost to health centers by:

- Providing **valuable collaboration and training opportunities** for health center providers and staff through workgroups, conferences, webinars, direct one-on-one individualized consulting assistance, and online communication platforms.
- Providing access to other grant opportunities that support clinical and operational performance improvement.
- Facilitating use of digital health tools and integrated virtual care platforms.
- Gathering and using clinical and population-level data to drive improvements in culturally competent, patient-centered care and improved clinical quality.

What are key examples Qual IT accomplishments in 2021?

- Our Qual IT team developed and rolled out practice-specific provider burnout surveys and support, security risk assessments, semi-annual conferences, webinars, trainings, and much more.
- New funding opportunities for Qual IT health centers in Statin Therapy, Women's Health Contraception, Blood Pressure Control, a Million Hearts Innovation project, NACHC's flagship Covid-19 Data Project, and more.
- New group purchasing discounts for Qual IT members from major HIT vendors, including Relevant, Relias, and more.

What's next for the Qual IT Network?

HRSA has defined new HCCN goals for 2022-2025 to encourage health centers to use IT and data to deliver high-quality, culturally competent, equitable, and comprehensive primary care. Appendix A is a list of 2022-2025 HCCN goals.

More Information

Join us! To learn more about Qual IT and HealthEfficient please visit our website <http://HealthEfficient.org>, or contact us directly. We look forward to talking with you soon!

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Appendix A: 2022-2025 HRSA Goals and Objectives for HCCNs

- Increase the use of digital health tools by patients between in person visits (messages, televisits, Remote Patient Monitoring, etc.).
- Implement technology policies/practices to advance security to protect data in two or more areas: cyber security attacks, fraud, or other harms.
- Share SDOH data with care teams and close the loop on SDOH referrals
- Successfully send text messages to submit patient-level UDS eCQM and UDS+ data using FHIR API.
- Integrate data into structured EHR fields from external clinical/non-clinical sources.
- Use advanced data strategies (predictive analytics, natural language processing, and machine learning) to inform performance improvement.
- Provide at least two formal trainings and routine support to providers and staff to promote proficiency with digital health tools.
- Implement at least one HIT intervention annually focused on aligning EHR with clinical workflows, improve structured data capture, regular EHR support/training, use data to improve EHR user experience.
- Use Health IT to reduce health disparity or SDOH
- Enhance quality and coordination of health by improving the functionality of a digital health tool.