



GREAT PLAINS QUALITY INNOVATION NETWORK: A HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RESOURCE



QI TOOLKIT CASE STUDY:

- [About Great Plains Quality Innovation Network](#)
- [About the interviewee](#)
- [What does Great Plains QIN do?](#)
- [What work is specific to cardiac health?](#)
- [What are the benefits of engaging with Great Plains QIN?](#)
- [What education and resources does Great Plains QIN offer?](#)
- [How do I get involved?](#)

Thank you to Nancy McDonald for sharing information about Great Plains Quality Innovation Network.

About Great Plains Quality Innovation Network

- Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN) is the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The development of Great Plains QIN resulted from changes to legislation requiring state QIO programs to create regional partnerships. Serving as the state QIO, the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care (SDFMC) formed an alliance with the QIOs in Kansas, Nebraska and North Dakota to advance healthcare quality improvement collaboration across the region.
- Great Plains QIN Mission: Great Plains QIN uses the collective knowledge and resources of its members to achieve the aims of better healthcare, improved health, safer care and lower healthcare costs.
- Great Plains QIN Vision: Through collaboration and partnership, Great Plains QIN aspires to make health in our region the best in the nation.

About the Interviewee

Nancy McDonald, RN, BSN, CPHQ
Director of Quality Improvement
Nancy.McDonald@area-a.hcqis.org
(605) 234-4144

As Director of Quality Improvement for the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care and State Program Director for the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN), Nancy McDonald provides leadership and guidance for the many healthcare initiatives in all healthcare settings across the state.

Her passion for quality improvement and reduction in patient harm is evident and her vast healthcare experience spreads across the spectrum of care from nursing to compliance and includes expertise related to critical access hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, Indian Health Services, inpatient psychiatric facilities and the inpatient prospective payment system.

An active member of the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Quality, she has served in multiple roles including president and secretary/treasurer and was selected as the Quality Coordinator of the Year in 2015. Her leadership and passion are clearly seen in her energetic, value-based drive for quality improvement. Nancy McDonald is a certified professional in healthcare quality (CPHQ), a Master Trainer in Team STEPPS, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in nursing from South Dakota State University.

What does Great Plains QIN do?

- Great Plains QIN works with healthcare providers and communities to implement data-driven quality initiatives to improve healthcare. We offer technical assistance, tailored education, best practices, tools and resources. The ability to collaborate with healthcare facilities and providers across the region provides broader insights while maintaining valuable local relationships.
- Through these efforts, we strive to impact the broad aims set forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services including adverse drug events, care transitions, chronic disease management, patient safety and nursing home care at the local and regional levels.

What work is specific to cardiac health?

- Great Plains QIN works with providers, patients, partners and stakeholders to implement evidence-based practices that support the national Million Hearts® initiative, which includes promoting preventive cardiovascular best practices – ABCS (Aspirin Therapy, Blood Pressure Control, Cholesterol Control and Smoking Cessation).
- Our content experts help identify high-impact quality improvement opportunities by reviewing and analyzing available data.
- We provide education and technical assistance for cardiac health and all other quality improvement initiatives. Education opportunities provided since January 2019 included teach back, blood pressure protocol training, and the Know Your Diabetes by Heart initiative.
- Healthcare professionals and community organizations receive support in developing referral programs and promoting chronic disease self-management education programs which empower patients to take charge of their health by developing and maintaining healthy lifestyle behaviors.

What are the benefits of engaging with Great Plains QIN?

- As the QIN-QIO, our diverse and experienced staff are available to provide technical assistance, tools and resources to advance quality improvement efforts at any healthcare facility with the intent of achieving better health care, improved health, safer care and lower healthcare costs.
- We focus on data-driven, high-impact opportunities and provide guidance on implementing evidence-based interventions with proven results.
- Access to regional and national content experts allows us to offer a broad range of valuable educational opportunities and credible tools and resources.
- Having established relationships with entities across the state and region, we recognize trends and common goals which allow us to facilitate collaboration and reduce duplication of efforts.
- As a neutral entity, we routinely collect and distribute best practices from across the state and region for the benefit of all.
- We actively engage and seek input from patients and families on healthcare impact and improvements.

What education and resources does Great Plains QIN offer?

We have a variety of channels available to access educational opportunities and other valuable resources.

- Great Plains QIN Website: <https://greatplainsqin.org>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GPQIN/>
- LinkedIn: <https://twitter.com/greatplainsqin>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/greatplainsqin>

How do I get involved?

Great Plains QIN has a broad range of quality improvement initiatives that engage community and healthcare professionals in every healthcare setting. Anyone interested may contact our office directly at (605) 336-3505 or find information on our website at <https://greatplainsqin.org>.