



Nova Scotia Health is the largest provider of health services in Nova Scotia. Their over 24,000 person workforce provides healthcare and support services in hospitals, health centres, and community-based programs across the province.

Whether through hosting wellness programs in the community, conducting innovative research in labs, or helping a patient recover in hospital; Nova Scotia Health is creating a healthier province. This is through the implementation of initiatives and creation of partnerships, including their efforts of quality improvement programs with RQI Partners and the IP Sim program with Laerdal Medical.

ADDRESSING PROVINCIAL CPR TRAINING THROUGH RQI[®]

For most healthcare organizations, the coordination of resuscitation training can be a challenge. To overcome this challenge, all while improving their quality of care within an entire province, Nova Scotia Health implemented the Resuscitation Quality Improvement[®] (RQI[®]) program as the standard for basic and advanced life support training in 2023.

“We are focused on improving patient outcomes and decreasing preventable deaths from cardiac arrests – not just in our hospitals, but in our communities. As the first province in Canada to implement the resuscitation quality improvement platform, we are proud to be supporting our staff in their mastery of these lifesaving skills.”

*~ Dr. Gail Tomblin Murphy,
Vice President, Research, Innovation and Discovery and
Chief Nurse Executive*

“Ensuring that staff can maintain BLS and ACLS certification has been very challenging. RQI makes so much sense for accessibility, flexibility and most importantly to ensure that staff are maintaining their competency. Learners like the RQI approach because of its flexibility and that it keeps the education content fresh in their mind. Staff no longer need to worry about finding nearby courses or using precious days off to attend.”

~ Haley Avery, Clinical Nurse Educator



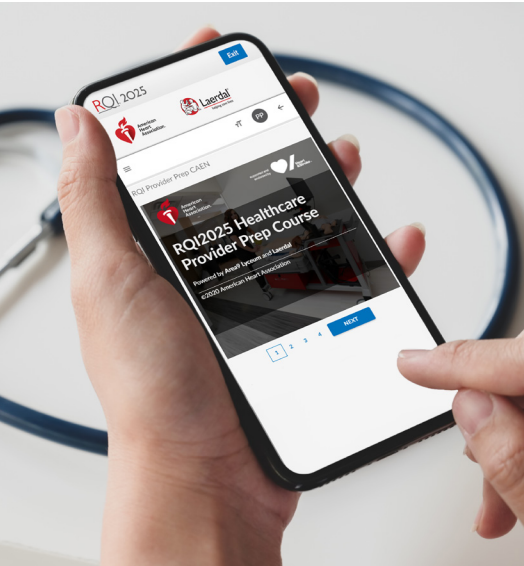
Pictured: Glenda Howie at Cape Breton Regional Hospital

TARGETING AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT WITH FEEDBACK

Combining self-paced skills training with audio-visual directive feedback, the RQI solution allows Nova Scotia Health providers to identify weak points in their CPR skills in real time, and adjust accordingly.

“I really like that staff don’t just go through the motions of performing CPR on a manikin. They actually improve skills due to the real-time feedback. A big problem I identified was staff members obtaining a proper seal for bag/mask ventilation; this would not have been identified without RQI feedback.”

~ Lindsay Frasier, Clinical Nurse Educator



Resuscitation Quality Improvement:

- Provides a high-reliability platform for simulation-based mastery learning implemented through low-dose, high-frequency quality improvement sessions that measure and verify CPR competence.
- Supports mastery of High-Quality CPR skills through feedback-driven deliberate practice.
- Skills sessions last approximately 5-10 minutes per quarter while cognitive learning activities last up to 35 minutes per quarter.
- Administrators will have analytic data related to all activities performed. Tracking of performance and related continuous quality improvements initiatives related to resuscitation can be tracked and monitored.
- Simulation stations deployed at locations conveniently accessed 24/7 by students, allowing skills modules to be completed during the normal shift.

STRENGTHENING CPR COMPETENCE AT THE POINT OF CARE

Instead of attending CPR courses infrequently, RQI learners can verify competencies quarterly without leaving the workplace to achieve and maintain skills mastery. This is integral to improving Nova Scotia Health providers' ability to deliver high-quality CPR when responding to cardiac arrest emergencies.

“RQI’s anytime anywhere approach and accessible station makes attaining BLS flexible and convenient. The SIM skills station allows hands on practice and the audiovisual feedback is great for real time improvements in skills. The RQI program has been a positive experience and has improved competence and confidence in our resuscitation team.”
~ Glenda Howie, Clinical Nurse Educator

The Power of Feedback:

Learners enrolled in the RQI program corrected their performance and significantly improved their overall High-Quality CPR scores from their Baseline Skills Assessment (without feedback) to their Core Skills Assessment (with feedback):

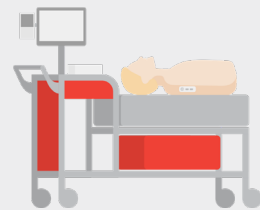
from 77% to 95% for Adult/Child Compressions

from 63% to 97% for Adult/Child Ventilations

from 40% to 96% for Infant Compressions

from 66% to 96% for Infant Ventilations

This data is a compilation of learner performance for RQI skills at Nova Scotia Health from April 2023 to September 2023. Learner performance data is collected during the Prep Assignment, when a learner completes Baseline (without feedback) and Core Skills Assessment (with feedback). Learners are evaluated on rate and volume for ventilations and rate, depth, hand placement, recoil and CCF skills for compressions. All scores are median values presented in this case study.



A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

This is just the beginning for Nova Scotia Health and their use of the RQI BLS and ALS Programs. Plans are underway to further expand within the health system. They are exploring opportunities for additional quality improvement with RQI PALS and the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines – Resuscitation programs. Nova Scotia Health is confident the RQI solution will continue to drive increased skills competency and compliance among their organization.