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# Developing and Sustaining a Pediatric Clinical Pathways Program to Improve Effectiveness

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## Background

### Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) Clinical Pathways Program:

- Supports development and peer review of pediatric, evidence-based clinical guidelines (est. 2019)
- Rapid program expansion and evolving leadership priorities highlighted a need for:
  - Standardized processes
  - Sustainable, accountable measurement approach
  - Clear assessment of pathway use, outcomes, and impact
- **Department of Pediatrics (DoP) Quality Program:**
  - Oversees > 40% of BCH's pathways across 16 divisions

## Objectives

1. Standardize DoP strategy for pathway development, implementation, measurement and maintenance
2. Embed pathways within DoP QI workflows to drive sustained improvement
3. Measure pathway program outcomes using adoption, utilization, and care quality metrics

## Methods

Developed and implemented a **standardized framework** for pathway development, implementation, and maintenance including:

- Centralized web-based tracker and structured review process
- Process map (Fig. 1)
- Author checklist (see QR code)
- Measurement framework
- Patient/family advisor collaboration
- Measurement progress reviews (Table 1)
- Structured 2-year content update with automated review notifications

## Results

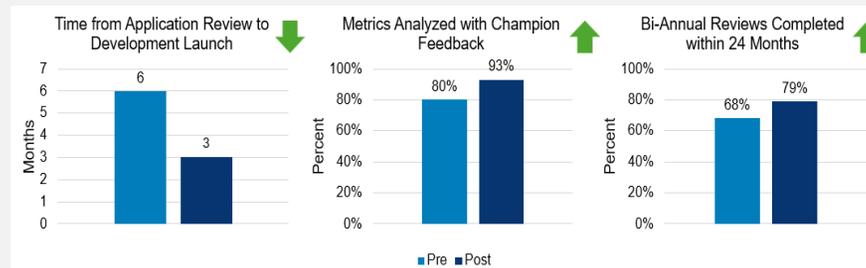


Figure 1: Pathway Development Process Map

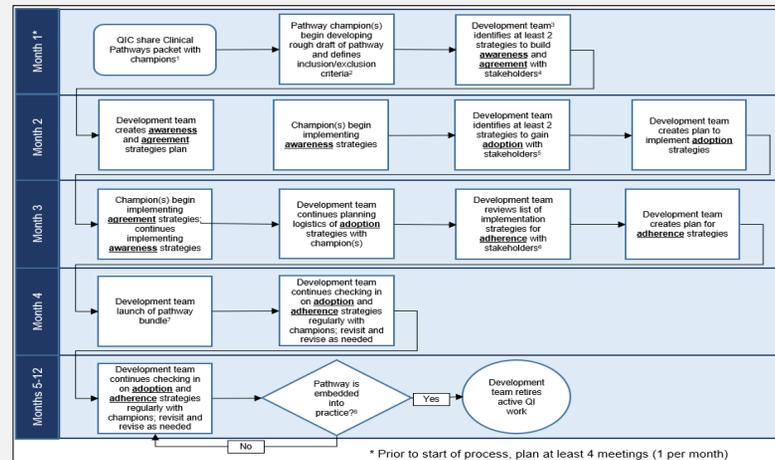


Table 1: Measurement Review Cadence

Monthly	Every 3 Months	Every 6 Months
1. Pathway in development 2. Measures in development	1. Pathway launched > 6 months ago 2. Measures in development	1. Pathway launched > 6 months ago 2. Measures established 3. Related active improvement
OR 1. Pathway launched < 6 months 2. Measures in development	3. Related active improvement	

\*Frequency of data analysis and review depends on N size; if low N, analyze less frequently to ensure you have a large enough sample size for significance

## Conclusions

1. The standardized framework improved:
  - **Efficiency** through structured governance, standardized tools and rigorous measurement development/review process
  - **Transparency**, reduced reporting variation, and strengthened accountability
2. Early analytics integration enabled **rapid learning cycles** and broad results dissemination
- Embedding measurement **strengthens sustainability, accountability and equity**

## Next Steps

1. Scaling standardized processes across departments
2. Expanding equity analyses
3. Evaluating outcomes, costs and engagement

Process map footnotes and Author Checklist available:

