

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PATIENT SAFETY Vertical Integrated Curriculum Overview

Traditionally, healthcare centers in the United State, particularly university-based medical centers, assumed they were providing high quality and safe patient care. However, with the publication of the Institute of Medicine's reports on patient safety, "To Err is Human"<sup>1</sup> and "Crossing the Quality Chasm"<sup>2</sup>, it became clear that this was frequently not the case.

Many national organizations, including the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, began to emphasize Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QI/PS). The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) concluded that education in these areas was *essential* to high-quality health care and the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) now has detailed testing on QI/PS.

The *ultimate* goal of the QI/PS Curriculum is for the student incorporate insight and techniques of quality improvement and patient safety into everyday practice, so that the clinician thinks and acts to improve care for each patient. The *immediate* goal is to provide knowledge for the student to meet Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) requirements and pass the USMLE exam. These goals will be met through lectures in each of the M1 to M3 years, along with small group discussions and simulation. Capstone assessment is through multiple choice questions in the Topics in Clinical Medicine 3 exam.

<sup>1</sup> Kohn LT, Corrigan JM, Donaldson MS (Institute of Medicine). To err is human: building a safer health system. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2000.

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Medicine. Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century. Washington, D.C: National Academy Press, 2001.