



10th Annual ECU Health Quality Improvement Symposium

Eastern AHEC and Virtual Live Webinar

January 28, 2026

The symposium is a showcase of initiatives happening throughout East Carolina University's[®] Health Sciences Campus and ECU Health related to quality improvement, patient safety, population health, and interprofessional practice. The goal of the symposium is to provide academic and community physicians, health professionals, health care teams, residents, fellows, and students the opportunity to present their work in systems improvement and practice redesign to an audience of peers and health system leaders.

REGISTRATION

Advanced registration is required. Registration will close at 8:30 am the day of the program. Registration is online only at <https://easternahec.net/courses-and-events/75466> and requires a current MyAHEC account. If you do not have a MyAHEC account, you will create one during the registration process. There is no fee for registration. If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, contact the Eastern AHEC Help Desk at easternahec@ecu.edu.

SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES

At the end of this symposium, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the quality improvement process as illustrated through inpatient, acute care, ambulatory practice and interprofessional improvement projects.
2. Describe how the quality improvement process can impact clinical care and system's based practice.
3. Provide a platform for participants to describe how they would change rules, habits, policies, or procedures to improve care delivery.

AGENDA

8:00-8:30 **Check-in at Eastern AHEC for in-person attendees – or – Sign-in to Zoom for virtual attendees**
Eastern AHEC Lobby
Coffee and light refreshments provided

8:30-8:40 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Conference Room A & B
Jennifer Sutter, MD, Clinical Professor, Pediatric Endocrinology
Michael Waldrum, MD, MSc, MBA, Dean, Brody School of Medicine, CEO, ECU Health

8:40-9:45 **Podium Session— IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL LIVE WEBINAR**
Conference Room A & B
Moderator: Herbert Garrison, MD, MPH, Professor of Emergency Medicine Emeritus, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Senior Officer, ECU Health Foundation

Improving the Rate of Normal Admission Temperatures in Very Preterm Neonates Admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Uduak Akpan, MD, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

NICU CLABSI Reduction Through Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Innovation

Kayla Ausbon, BSN, RN, CCRN, NICU, Maynard Children's Hospital, ECU Health Medical Center

Surgical Specimen Management: Reducing Errors by Creating a Culture of Safety Around Post-Surgical Debriefs

Shawna McClung, MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, CNOR, Perioperative Services, ECU Health Medical Center

Closing the Gap: Improving Hypertension Control in Eastern North Carolina

Lori Goodwin, BSN, RN, Office of Quality, ECU Health Physicians

From Siloed to Synergized: The PSI-3 Transformation at ECU Health

Charlene Turnage, MSN, RN, LSSGB, Performance Improvement, ECU Health Medical Center

Bridging the Gap: Establishing Quality Care Standards for Patients Boarding in the Emergency Department

Kaili Nixon, MSN, RN, Emergency Department, ECU Health Chowan Hospital

9:45-9:55

Break

9:55-11:15

Quick Shot Podium Session—IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL LIVE WEBINAR

Conference Room A & B

Moderator: Herbert Garrison, MD, MPH, Professor of Emergency Medicine Emeritus, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Senior Officer, ECU Health Foundation

Leveraging AI Generated Video and Patient-Centered Handouts to Improve Pre-Operative Education and Workflow Efficiency

Michael Mintz, RN, Cardiothoracic Surgery, ECU Health Medical Center

Improving Emergency Department Behavioral Health Outcomes Through Integrated Case Management and Outreach Services

Nancy Keith, MS, MSW, LCSW, ACM-SW, CMAC, Systemwide Case Management, ECU Health Medical Center

Bedside Shift Report: The Positive Implications on Patient Safety and Satisfaction on the Medical Surgical Unit

Courtney Hale, BSN, RN, ECU Health Chowan Hospital Medical Surgical Unit

Reducing Surgical Site Infections in Colorectal Surgery

Vicki Phillips, MSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, CIC. Infection Prevention and Control, ECU Health Medical Center

Improving Influenza Vaccination Rates in Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Patients: A Quality Improvement Initiative at ECU Pediatric Specialty Clinic

Chikeluba V. Okafor, MS4, LINC Scholar, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Improving Hypertension Management in the Ambulatory Setting

Kelsey Gurganus, MSN, RN, Family Medicine Windsor, ECU Health

Improvement of Sepsis Bundle Compliance at ECU Health Medical Center Emergency

Department

Shimika Rasha, MD, MPH, Internal Medicine/Hospitalist, ECU Health Medical Center

Implementing a Nurse-Driven Foley Removal Protocol to Reduce Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections

Latasha Williams, DNP, APRN, AGCNS-BC, NEL, NE, CRRN, Rehab Services, ECU Health Medical Center

Improving Neurodevelopmental Evaluations in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Saba Ijaz, MS3, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Bye-Bye Opioids: Revolutionizing Pediatric Post-Surgery Care

Laurie Etheridge, BSN, QNS II, Surgical Clinical Reviewer NSQIP-Pediatrics, Office of Quality, ECU Health Medical Center

11:15-12:15

Poster Session IN-PERSON ONLY

Atrium & Conference Room D

Session presenters listed below

*Further opportunity for symposium attendees to view the quality improvement work that is being conducted throughout ECU's Health Science Campus and ECU Health System. We encourage you to visit with the poster presenters and engage in learning about their projects. *****No CME credit for this session******

12:15-1:00

Lunch and Networking

Pick up lunch in Meeting Room 1, Lunch and Networking in Conference Room A & B

1:00-1:15

Awards IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL LIVE WEBINAR

Conference Room A & B

Moderator: Jason D. Higginson, MD, MA, FAAP, Executive Dean, Brody School of Medicine, Chief Health Officer, ECU Health and Teresa Anderson, PhD, RN, NE-BC, Senior Vice President of Quality, ECU Health

Podium, Quick Shot Podium, and Poster Session awards announced

*******No CME credit for this session*******

1:15-1:25

BREAK

1:25-2:55

Concurrent Education Sessions

Harnessing Data for Safer Systems: Linking Safety Event Reporting to Process Improvement

Conference Room A

IN-PERSON ONLY

Presenter: Katie Knowles, MSN, RN, Quality Director, ECU Health Duplin Hospital

Event reporting is more than compliance—it's the engine for safer systems. This session explores how organizations can transform raw safety data into actionable performance improvement initiatives. Using narcotic waste error reduction as a case study, we'll demonstrate how SafeNow reporting identifies risk patterns, informs targeted interventions, and drives measurable outcomes. Participants will learn practical strategies for prioritizing high-risk events, applying PDSA cycles, and sustaining improvements through dashboards and feedback loops. Leave with a replicable roadmap to convert insights into impact across medication safety and beyond.

1:25-2:55

Applying AI in Health Care and Quality Improvement

Conference Room B & C

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL LIVE WEBINAR

Presenters: David Michael, MD, DipABPM; Associate Chief Medical Informatics Officer, Medical Director Lifestyle Medicine, ECU Health and Dean Miner, MD, DipABPM; Associate Chief Medical Informatics Officer, ECU Health

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming prevalent in many health care systems in both operational and clinical aspects. Using examples of ongoing projects where AI is being used to improve patient care, the speakers will highlight the broad benefits while also highlighting the challenges. Using an AI tool on their mobile device, the speakers will engage the audience in exploring how they could use AI daily on their own.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Reducing Patient Falls Through Standardized Toileting and Call Bell Protocols on a Medical-Surgical Unit

Ranee Pender, MSN-NE, CCRN, NE-BC, Patient Care Services – Beaufort, ECU Health

Nourishing Little Lives: Achieving Success in Pediatric Gastrostomy Outcomes

Elaine Henry, MSN, RNC-NIC, Maynard Children's Hospital, ECU Health Medical Center

Revolutionizing the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) Reporting Process

Kimberly Carter, RN, Performance Improvement, ECU Health Quality

Empowering Excellence: Improving Throughput and Communication from the Emergency Department to Inpatient Care

Courtney Hale, BSN, RN, ECU Health Chowan Hospital Medical Surgical Unit

Simulation Education for Perinatal Staff: Identifying Sepsis

Rhiannon Stallings, RN, MSN, RNC-MNN, C-ONQS, Women's Services, ECU Health Medical Center

Increasing the Rate of Timely Discharges in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Michael McFayden, MS3, LINC Scholar, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Vancomycin Duplicate Dose Medication Events Quality Improvement Initiative

Jennifer Peltz, PharmD, MBA, BCCCP, ECU Health Medical Center

Enhancing Influenza Vaccine Education and Documentation in Pediatric Outpatient Setting

Osama Shabbir, MD, Pediatrics, ECU Health Medical Center

Use our cool tools! Improving provider interaction with note reader Query to improve clinical documentation integrity

Greeshma Sheri, MD, Internal Medicine, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Maximizing Impact: Enhancing Teamwork and Patient Care through Full Utilization of Level II Certified Nursing Assistants

Latasha Williams, DNP, APRN, AGCNS=BC, NEL, NE, CRRN, Rehab Services, ECU Health Medical Center

MRSA Screening and Decolonization in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Stephanie Smith, MSN, RN, ACM-RN, Women's and Children's Administration, ECU Health Medical Center

Striving for Better Diabetes Outcomes: Reducing Poor Glycemic Control to Under 15% Med-Peds clinic with an A1C of $\geq 9.1\%$

Mariam Tariq Awana, MD, Med-Peds, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

No Longer Number One-The evolution of a traffic safety task force utilizing the Safe Systems approach

Ellen Walston, MSW, ACSW, LCSW, Eastern Carolina Injury Prevention Program, ECU Health Medical Center

Integration of Social Work at East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine

Taneet Ghuman, BDS, MS, M.Dent.Sci, School of Dental Medicine, East Carolina University

The Final Beat: A Structured Approach to LVAD Deactivation in End-of-Life Care

Adam Hudson, DO, Family Medicine, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Use of Electronic Messaging to Reinforce Post-Discharge Care in Bariatric Surgery Patients

Rebecca Scarborough, MAEd, RDN, LDN, Bariatric Surgery Coordinator, ECU Health Medical Center

Implementing a Standardized Food Insecurity Screening and Referral Protocol in an Outpatient OB Clinic

Gaddamangu Uma, MPH, MS4, LINC Scholar, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Implementation and Impact of the Massive Hemorrhage Protocol Across ECU Health Community Hospitals

Lee Anne Sorto, DNP, FNP-C, TSO, Pathology - Transfusion Services, ECU Health Medical Center

Improving Hospital-Onset Clostridioides difficile (HOCDI) Prevention and Management

Caroline Rust, CIC, Infection Prevention, ECU Health Duplin Hospital

From Policy to Practice: Enhancing OB EMTALA Performance

Destiny Eason, RN, Clinical Quality Management, ECU Health Duplin Hospital

Pressure Off, Achieving an 82% Drop in HAPIs

Amy Evans, BSN, RN, 3N Neurosciences, ECU Health Medical Center

Increasing Kangaroo Care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for Very Preterm Neonates - A Quality Improvement Initiative

Katherine Taylor, DO, Pediatrics – Neonatology, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

WORKS IN PROGRESS POSTER PRESENTATIONS

A Multimodal Exercise and Support Program for Individuals with Parkinson's Disease

Cassandra Anderson, MS, ACSM EP, EIM, RSB Coach, ECU Health Wellness Center

Implementation of Well-Being Initiatives for General Surgery Residents (title revision expected)

Susan Roberts, DO, Department of Surgery, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Language-discordant interactions in clinical settings: improvements through communication accommodation training

Rose Baker-Iyore, BA, Communication Sciences and Disorders, East Carolina University

Analysis and Improvement of Emergency Response Team Activations in Acute Rehab Facilities

Haris Shehzad, MS, MS4, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Cost Impact of Rabies Immune Globulin Dose Rounding in the Emergency Department

Stephanie Knode, PharmD, Pharmacy, ECU Health Medical Center

Utilization of Modern Delivery Systems: The Development of a Pediatric Asthma Program PowerBI Dashboard

Qua'Tavia White, MPH, Student Intern, Department of Public Health, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

The Cost of Silence: Unspoken Goals-of-Care in the ICU

Joshua Butler, MD, Family Medicine, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Comparison of Institutional Guideline Recommendations for BIOFIRE BCID2 Results with Actual Identification and Susceptibility and the Impact of Response Strategy on Time to Targeted Therapy

David Laurent, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP, Pharmacy, ECU Health Medical Center

Standardizing Pediatric Anesthesia Carts: Comparing Hard Copy and Digital Resources for Improved Drug Retrieval and Accuracy

Onolunosen Abhulimen, MS, MS2, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Creating a Strong Defense Against Falls: A System-Wide Approach to Patient Safety

Morgan Furman, MSN, RN, OCN, CCRP, Quality, Performance Improvement, ECU Health Medical Center

Expanding Whole Blood Access in Trauma Care for Women and Pediatrics at ECU Health

Lee Anne Sorto, DNP, FNP-C, TSO, Pathology - Transfusion Services, ECU Health Medical Center

Ambulatory Care: Improving Fall Prevention by Establishing an Equipment Clinic for Assistive Devices for Ambulation

Allison Connelly, MD, PT, Geriatrics, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Pivot to Co-Managed Transfusion Reaction Protocol: Enhancing Compliance and Patient Safety through Interprofessional Collaboration

Lee Anne Sorto, DNP, FNP-C, TSO, Pathology - Transfusion Services, ECU Health Medical Cent

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Physicians, professionals, health system leaders, fellows, residents, and students

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

This free event requires online registration. Registration is online only at <https://easternahec.net/courses-and-events/75466> and requires a current MyAHEC account. If you do not have a MyAHEC account, you will create one during registration. Registration will close at 8:30 AM on 1/28/26, when the program starts. If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, contact the Eastern AHEC Help Desk at easternahec@ecu.edu.

ACCREDITATION:

This live activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and ECU Health Quality Office. The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

CREDIT:

Physicians will receive *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™]. The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University designates this live activity for a maximum of 3.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Physician Assistants will receive CME for Physician Assistants: AAPA accepts certificate of participation for educational activities certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™] from organizations accredited by ACCME or a recognized state medical society. Physician Assistants may receive a maximum of 3.75 hours of Category 1 credit for completing this program.

All other health care providers will receive Eastern AHEC Contact Hours: 3.75

Certificates will reflect 3.75 contact hours. This live activity is designated for 3.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NC AHEC Photo Policy:

Attendance at this activity grants permission for Eastern AHEC to use any photographs, audio, video, or other images from this activity for promotional or educational purposes. Please notify an AHEC staff member if you have concerns.

Evaluations & Certificates:

Evaluations will be emailed within 7 business days after the program. Once the evaluation has been completed, your certificate will be available.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the ADA coordinator at least five days prior to the event at 252-737-1018 / ada-coordinator@ecu.edu.

All Rights Reserved Statement:

You may not record, reproduce, publish, distribute, modify, create derivative works, or transmit any program content and/or material presented during continuing professional development (CPD) activities. Continuing professional credit will not be given for unauthorized copied and transmitted recordings of any CPD programs and other activities. Prior registration and attendance are required to receive continuing professional credit.

For more information or to view the slides and posters presentations visit <https://medicine.ecu.edu/medicaleducation/reach-qj-symposium/> or scan the QR code.

