**Tool: Criteria for Prioritizing Clinical Improvement Projects**

NorthShore University HealthSystem, Evanston, Ill., has brought together a world-class group of clinical informatics experts, as well as statisticians and other technical staff, under the auspices of the Center for Clinical and Research Informatics (CCRI). Focused on clinical quality improvement and peer-reviewed research, CCRI has about 50 projects going on at any one time.

Ideas for clinical quality improvement projects come from all over the health system, says Jonathan Silverstein, MD, MS, vice president of clinical research informatics. “Our internal advisory board, which includes a number of clinical department chairs, vets potential projects by a long list of criteria, such as usability, standardization potential, level of innovation, and opportunity for impact. What we come up with is a project priority score for all the projects, and we use that to decide what projects to do when.”

Silverstein generously shared the following form that NorthShore asks all leaders and staff to use when submitting a clinical quality improvement idea to CCRI for consideration.

**Project Description:**

**Title of Project:**

**Requestors**:

**CCRI contact** (at least one CCRI Internal Advisory Board member):

**Problem** (brief statement of the problem):

**Goal** (brief statement of project hypothesis, objectives, or aims with explicit statement of measurable outcome):

**CCRI Prioritization Criteria**

**External funding** (e.g., source type and rough scale):

**Patient or population impact** (e.g., frequency and severity of problem and population relevance to NorthShore):

**Innovation or novelty:**

**Costly problem** (e.g., revenue generation/expense reduction or societal cost):

**Undesirable variation with standardization potential:**

**Feasibility** (e.g., size, implementation time, resource requirements, approach):

**Engagement of operational areas** (e.g., alignment, availability, lead time):

**Foundational work for multiple stakeholders:**

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