Atrial Fibrillation Quality Improvement Framework

Heart Rhythm Society
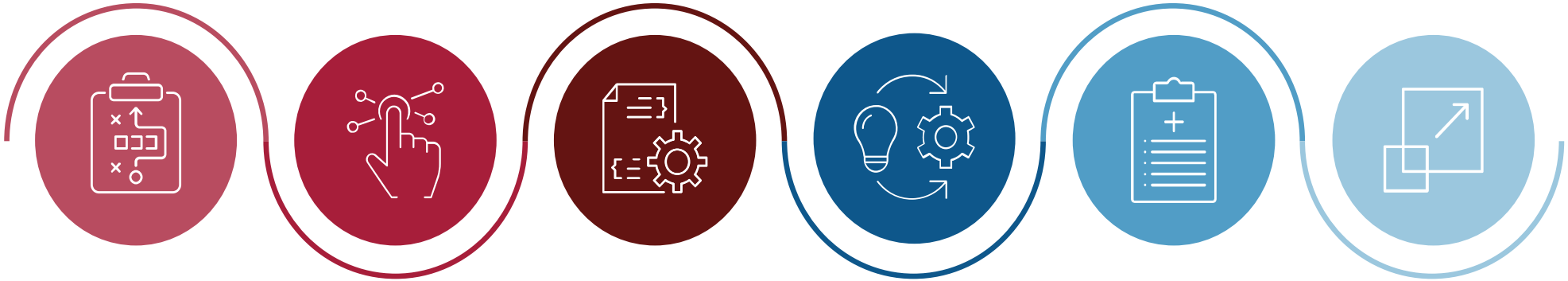
Prepare

- Identify AF as condition warranting improvement
- Identify AF Quality Champion(s)
- Develop high level improvement plan
  - Obtain data analytics support
  - Collect and analyze baseline data
  - Preform gap analysis
  - Establish benchmarks
  - Identify key opportunities for improvement
  - Identify potential barriers
  - Identify needed resources (e.g., people, IT support, time, funding)

Engage

- Identify and engage an executive sponsor
- Obtain leadership agreement to proritize improvement in AF outcomes
- Identify and align speciality and therapeutic settings
- Establish core project team
  - Develop charter with team purpose, roles, & responsibilities
  - Engage project champion(s) for all project touchpoints (IT, pharmacy, APPs, etc.)

Design

- Create improvement plan
  - Background
  - Purpose/goals/ objectives
  - Scope
  - Metrics/outcomes/ benchmarks
  - Interventions focused on processes, patients, providers
  - Timeline/milestones
  - Communication plan
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Resources
  - Budget
  - Pilot site(s)
- Obtain approval of project plan by project stakeholders and participants
- Obtain IRB or QI commitee approval (as needed)

Implement

- Execute improvement plan
  - Build, test and refine IT infrastructure and reports
  - Obtain baseline data
  - Implement interventions
  - Measure, analyze and report changes compared to benchmarks
  - Discuss findings and challenges with core team
  - Optimize intervention(s): make incremental changes as needed
  - Remeasure and continue to refine process

Report

- Status reports
  - Project updates
  - Collate insights (subjective)
  - Analyze results (objective)
  - Record changes (optimization of methods)
- Develop summary report
- Disseminate findings
- Institute communication plan

Sustain / Scale

- Develop sustainability plan to continue and expand AF QI program including:
  - Upkeep/maintenance
  - Transitions of care
  - Update benchmarks
  - Ongoing quality achievement feedback reports to providers, clinics, stakeholders
  - Reinforcement / education
  - Concordance with culture
  - Fit into workflow
  - HCP performance/ incentive goals
- Develop a scalability plan to transfer and apply knowledge

The AFQI Framework was developed by the Heart Rhythm Society in collaboration with the BMS/Pfizer Alliance.
Abbreviations: AF, atrial fibrillation; HCP, health care professional; IRB, institutional review board; IT, information technology; QI, quality improvement.