

Institute for Healthcare Quality, Safety & Efficiency

Certificate Training Program in Health Quality Transformation, Cohort 14 Call for Applications

Request for Applications

The Institute for Healthcare Quality, Safety and Efficiency (IHQSE) is requesting applications for entry into the fourteenth cohort of its Certificate Training Program in Health Quality Transformation (CTP), which commences August 2026. This program emphasizes development and enhancement of high-functioning teams capable of systematically improving the quality, safety, cost, and experience of care provided for patients across CU Anschutz.

Background

The IHQSE is a partnership between the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Children's Hospital Colorado, and University of Colorado Hospital. The mission of the IHQSE is to transform through discovery, improvement, and spread, the people and processes that serve our patients.

CTP Curriculum Overview

The program places special emphasis on:

1. Selecting, developing, and supporting inter-disciplinary, inter-professional teams skilled at leading change
2. Enabling those teams to integrate analysis of quality, safety, efficiency, and cost data into strategic decision-making
3. Establishing the necessary culture and infrastructure to facilitate continuous performance improvement

The curriculum includes didactics, skill acquisition and skill application focused on:

- Leadership & team development
- Change management
- Provider/staff engagement and well-being
- Quality and process improvement
- Patient safety
- Healthcare finance
- Patient experience

Participants benefit from close collaboration inside and outside the classroom with expert faculty coaches.

Eligibility

All faculty, staff and trainees employed by the University of Colorado School of Medicine, the University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital Colorado on the Anschutz Medical Campus are eligible for the CTP.

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Ideal Applicants

Candidates must apply as a group: Teams representing the medical, nursing, pharmacy, and/or administrative **leadership** must jointly apply to the CTP. Ideal teams include the nursing and physician leaders of the care area. The most effective teams include additional team members from the care area. Ideal team sizes are 4-6, however, we accept teams with 2-8 members.

Ideal candidates should have outstanding potential and/or ability to lead effectively, and they should have opportunities for sustained engagement with organizational improvement priorities. Candidates need not have an extensive track record of prior or ongoing quality improvement project work.

Candidates may represent outpatient clinics, hospital units, or multi-site clinical programs.

Participant Expectations/Responsibilities

The CTP is a rigorous professional development program, with required commitment across the year. The longitudinal curriculum builds on itself and requires substantial in- and out-of-classroom effort.

Specifically, in order to graduate from the CTP, participants must:

- Attend pre-scheduled educational and coaching sessions (all team members). Commencing August 2026, participants should plan and be available to attend planned educational/coaching sessions. These sessions are held in-person from 1pm-5pm, typically on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from August through June (some dates may be shifted due to holidays).
- Attend additional, tailored coaching sessions (all team members). These sessions generally occur virtually for 1 hour on the weeks between pre-scheduled educational sessions, and are set up independently by the team and their coach.
- Apply curricular concepts and tools to the clinical arena by focusing improvement work in their unit/program on organization-wide strategic priorities incorporating quality, safety, efficiency, cost management, and patient experience.
- Complete a substantial process improvement project in their clinical area and present their work to stakeholders.

Timeline

March 27, 2026 Application Due
Early June 2026 Team Selections Announced
August 18, 2026 CTP Commences

Note: the first two sessions will be held on consecutive weeks: August 18, 2026 and August 25, 2026.

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Application Instructions

1. [Click here to apply](#). Note that the application requests –

- A brief description (1-2 paragraphs) of the top 3-5 strategic priorities for performance improvement in your care area over the next 1-3 years. Preference is given to teams working in areas of strategic priority to the clinical partners.
- A personal statement (2-page limit). The team should collaboratively develop and submit a personal statement that addresses:
 1. Evidence of prior collaborative partnership in their care area, whether in their current roles or in previous clinical settings.
 2. Discussion of past successes and challenges in collaboratively leading performance improvement work in their care area.
 3. Explanation of how participation in CTP will enhance each applicant's personal leadership development

2. Letters of Support and Commitment – Each identified team member must have a Letter of Support and Commitment from their direct supervisor, which should:

- Comment on the applicant's leadership accomplishments/potential, commitment to performance improvement, and role in the clinical enterprise.
- Attest to the supervisor's support for the applicant's participation in the CTP through reduction in clinical, administrative, or other duties.
- Outline how the applicant's completion of the CTP will support key strategic priorities over the next 3-5 years for which the supervisor is accountable.
- See Appendix 1 (below) for sample Letter of Support and Commitment.

3. Formatting:

- Letters of Support and Commitment should be submitted directly by the letter writer to ihqse@cuanschultz.edu by March 27, 2026.

4. Questions—Direct all questions about the IHQSE or the CTP to ihqse@cuanschultz.edu.

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Appendix 1

[Click here to download Word version of Appendix 1](#)

Sample Letter of Support and Commitment:

As the direct supervisor in [insert name of department or program], who provides managerial oversight for [insert name of CTP applicant], I am pleased to support [his/her/their] participation in the IHQSE Certificate Training Program (CTP). I believe strongly that this rigorous development opportunity provides [insert name of CTP applicant] an excellent avenue to enhance [his/her/their] skills and capacity to lead clinical performance improvement in my part of the organization.

[Insert 1-2 paragraphs commenting on the applicants' leadership accomplishments/potential, commitment to performance improvement and role in the clinical enterprise.]

Over the next few years, I am charged with leading improvement in the following domains: [insert top 3 strategic priorities]. Successfully leading improvement, managing, change, and enhancing culture will rely heavily upon front-line leadership by skilled, inter-professional teams that can consistently drive forward meaningful work in these domains. By attending the CTP, [insert name of CTP applicant] will be optimally positioned to help me lead this critically important work.

This program includes the development and/or enhancement of a team poised to fundamentally improve clinical care delivery in our care area. Acknowledging that the program consists of pre-scheduled half-day training seminars and intensive coaching sessions two times per month from August 2026 through June 2027, as well as significant improvement work outside of the seminars, I agree to free [insert name of CTP applicant] from clinical and non-clinical duties to participate in the CTP. This commitment includes my understanding that during CTP activities [insert name of CTP applicant] will not be available to our department/program for other clinical or administrative activities.

I understand that [insert name of CTP applicant] will be informed of his/her/their selection for CTP by June 2026, and the program will run August 2026 through June 2027. I offer my unqualified support for [insert name of CTP applicant]'s application, and believe s/he/they is a superb candidate for the CTP.

Sincerely,

[insert signature]

Please submit this letter directly to IHQSE@cuanschutz.edu by March 27, 2026.