

# Designing and Implementing a Value-Based Healthcare Case Competition for Health Professional Students

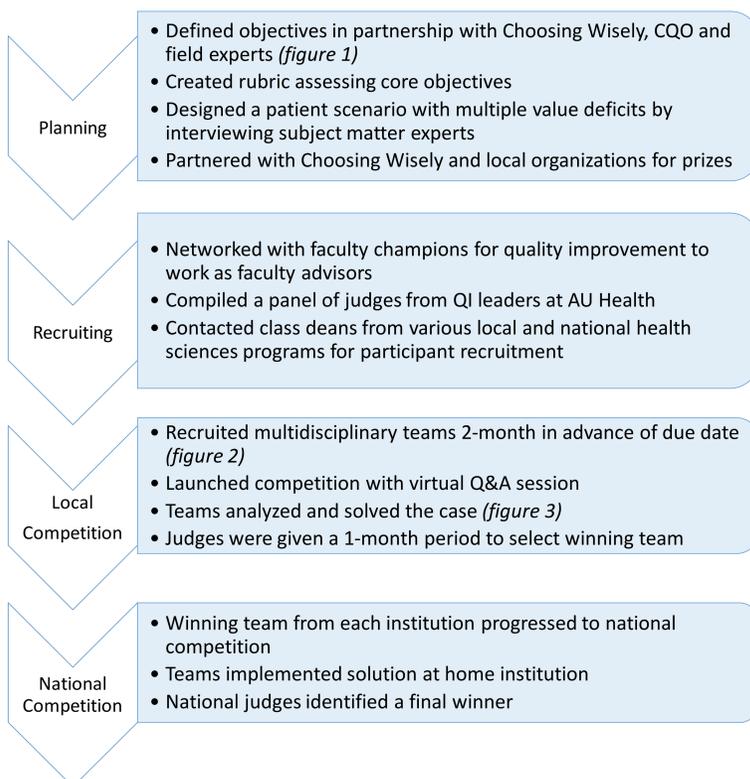
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## INTRODUCTION

As costs to patients rise, value-based healthcare is growing in importance as a means to improve healthcare access and outcomes. Despite the advancing national dialogue on avoiding unnecessary medical tests, treatments, and procedures, students are rarely exposed to these concepts before their clinical rotations. To promote a foundational culture of value-based healthcare practices, our team designed an annual case competition to introduce high-value care concepts to pre-clinical healthcare students at our institution. Students at the Medical of Georgia, the Augusta University College of Nursing, and other allied health programs were encouraged to form multidisciplinary teams to solve a healthcare case. Students then implemented quality improvement practices via a realistic healthcare case with embedded value deficits. The rationale for this experience is to promote experiential education in high value care.

## METHODS



## RESULTS



Figure 1. Case-competition objectives designed with the aim of building a foundation of high-value care

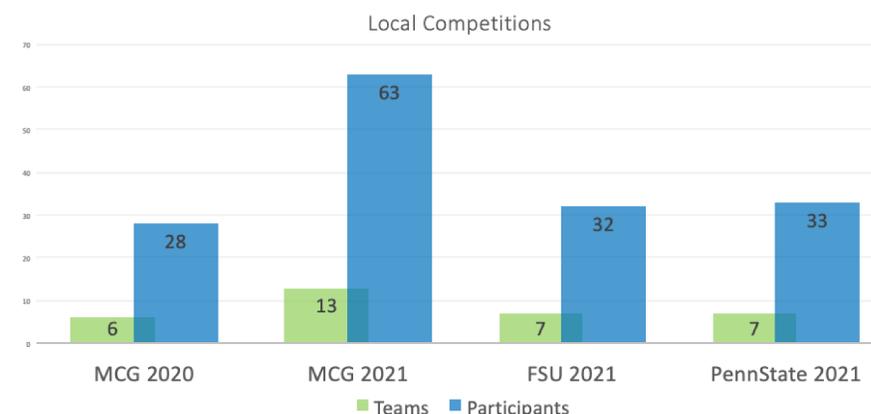


Figure 2. Growth of the case competition from 2020 to 2021

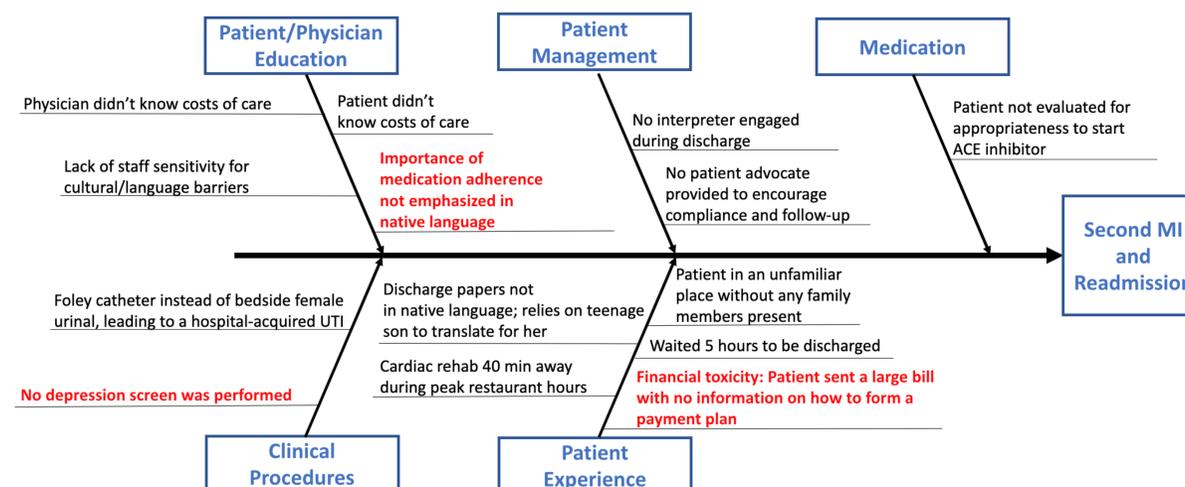


Figure 3. Value deficits as identified by 2020 case competition participants via a fishbone diagram. Key deficits, highlighted in red, guided the winning solution: Patient's Post-Discharge Advocacy Liaison (PAL).

## OUTCOMES

- Since its onset, the competition received special recognition in the Cost of Care Student Value Challenge. After its inaugural year in 2020, the competition has progressed to a national level and will continue for at least a third year.
- Introduced students to systemic discrimination and disparities in outcomes for patients in a system of "low-value" care
- Activated healthcare students to embrace a high-value care culture using a bottom-up approach with top-down support
- Fostered connections between students and leaders in quality improvement at our institution and the Choosing Wisely foundation with cash and certification prizes as incentives
- Promoted interdisciplinary discussion about high value care among various healthcare professions students

## NEXT STEPS

- Introduce the next stage of the competition, focused on implementing real-world solutions at home institutions
- Prioritize multidisciplinary recruitment to increase participation of allied health students in future competitions
- Grow competition to include more institutions and health professions nationwide
- Continue educating participants on application of quality improvement tools, like Lean Six Sigma

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Dr. Pascha Schafer MD
- Dr. Christopher Moriates MD
- Julie Moretz
- Megan Furno MPH, LSSBB
- September Wallingford RN, MSN, APRN-BC