Selecting a QI Project for MOC Part IV Designation

What should you consider in deciding whether to apply for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV credit to be designated for a quality improvement (QI) project? How do you select among projects recently completed, under way, or ready to start? Consider the following factors. For further information, contact:

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1. Participating physicians
   - Which physicians will be involved? (Requirements for Part IV credit vary by specialty.)
   - Do they need Part IV credit? (Easy alternative available? Already met their current requirement?)

2. Institute of Medicine Quality dimensions
   - Does the project address one or more of the following dimensions of patient care: safety, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, timeliness, patient-centeredness?

3. Substantive yet clear
   - Can you describe a discrete project? (Within a program of linked efforts, what is a specific project?)
   - Are formal pre-post cycles (PDCA) of study and checking appropriate?
   - Can the project be described clearly in an application for Part IV designation and in reports?
   - Can physicians easily understand it so they can reflect on their participation and future plans?

4. Importance of the project
   - Do participating physicians view the project as an important priority in improving patient care?
   - Do health care leaders view the project as an important priority in improving patient care?

5. Meaningful physician participation
   - Is the QI project to benefit the physician’s patients and related to the physician’s clinical practice?
   - Are physicians actively involved in the QI effort, including at a minimum:
     - Working with care team members to plan and implement interventions?
     - Interpreting performance data to assess the impact of the interventions?
     - Making appropriate course corrections in the improvement project?
   - Are they active in the project for the minimum duration required by the project?
   - Are they able to personally reflect on the activity, describing the change that was performed in their practice and how it affected the way care is delivered?
   - Can meaningful participation be ensured for those who request credit?

6. Project lead(s)
   - Will the project lead perform the additional requirements associated with Part IV credit (project application, participation confirmation, report submission)?
   - Will this effort help the project lead prepare presentations and publications about the project?