

JANUARY- JUNE 2026
QI SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT



PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY
ANNE KINYUA

BRIEF REVIEW

POISE AT A GLANCE: JANUARY-JUNE 2026

The first half of 2026 marked another period of meaningful growth for POISE as we continued to strengthen quality improvement efforts across pediatrics. Through individualized coaching, educational programming, collaborative partnerships, and support for quality improvement initiatives, POISE remained committed to helping teams translate innovative ideas into measurable improvements in patient care and safety.

Inside, you'll find:

- **Quality Improvement Coaching:** An overview of quality improvement coaching activities and departmental engagement, including 20 MOC Part 4 completions during the reporting period.
- **Safety & Quality Day Highlights:** Coverage of the 6th Annual Safety & Quality Day, featuring the theme From Arcade to AI: Advancing Patient Safety, along with recognition of outstanding quality improvement work.
- **Resident & Poster Showcase:** A spotlight on the QI Resident Award-winning project and summaries of additional quality improvement initiatives presented during the poster session.
- **POISE Progress & What's Next:** An update on POISE's accomplishments during the first half of 2026 and a look ahead at strategic priorities for the remainder of the year, including expanding coaching capacity, increasing scholarly output, and supporting more successful quality improvement projects.



THE POISE TEAM

The Pediatric Office of Improvement Science (POISE) continues to support quality improvement efforts across the UAB Department of Pediatrics by providing expert coaching, educational opportunities, and resources that help teams deliver safer, higher-quality care. Through its network of Physician Quality Officers, recognition programs, and scholarly initiatives, POISE promotes a culture of continuous improvement while strengthening the sustainability and dissemination of quality improvement work.

QI Directors



Adolfo Molina, MD, MSHQS



Emily Smitherman, MD

QI Officers



Amy Cajacob, MD



Nicholas Cajacob, MD



David Galloway, MD



Rachel Kassel, M.D.



Ashley Moellinger, NP



Samantha Hanna, MD



Meghan Harrison, MD



Jessica Schmitt, MD



Jeremy Loberger, MD

Writing Workshop



2026 August 5, 12, 26, and September 2, from 12:00–1:00 PM

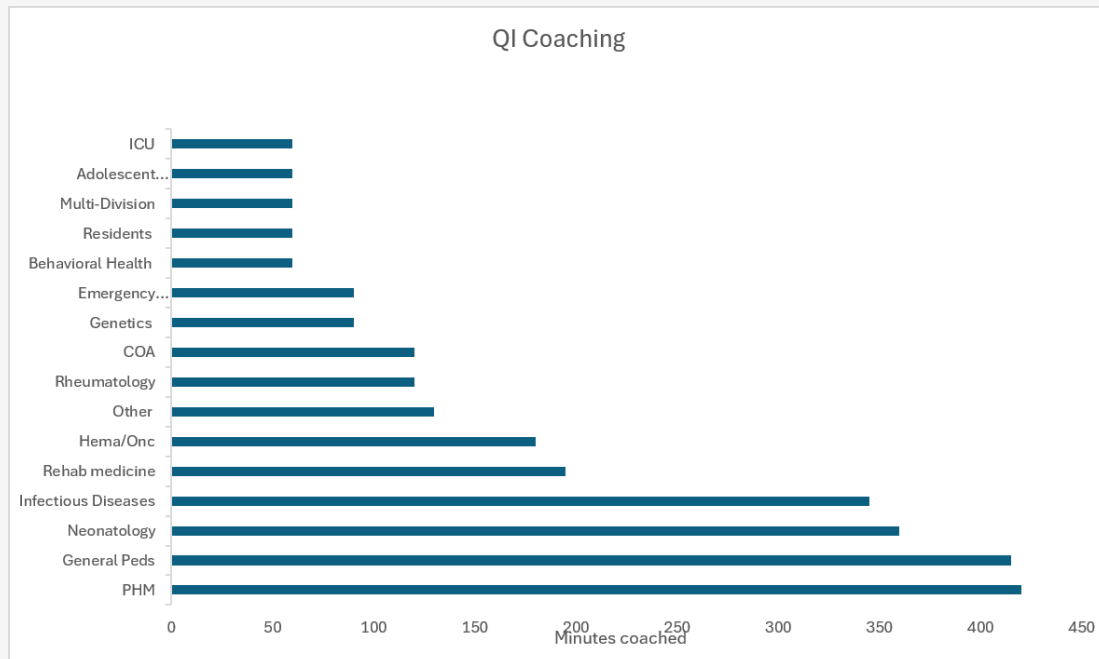
POISE will host its annual QI Writing Workshop in August 2026, led by Dr. Emily Smitherman. Open to providers, staff, and trainees, the four-session virtual workshop is designed for participants at any stage of the writing process. Through structured assignments, participants will develop or refine a quality improvement manuscript while learning the fundamentals of scholarly writing.

The workshop uses the SQUIRE (Standards for QQuality Improvement Reporting Excellence) guidelines to teach the structure of a QI manuscript and help participants work toward a complete draft. In addition to expert instruction, attendees will benefit from a collaborative community that fosters writing accountability and ongoing scholarly engagement.

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



QI Coaching and MOC 4 Credit



During the reporting period, POISE provided more than 47 hours of individualized quality improvement coaching to teams across the Department of Pediatrics. Coaching supported a broad range of activities, including project planning, SMART aim development, data analysis and interpretation, measurement strategy, control charts, PDSA cycles, and preparation for scholarly dissemination. These consultations help project teams build stronger quality improvement initiatives while advancing meaningful improvements in patient care.

POISE also facilitated 20 Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 4 completions, recognizing physicians who successfully completed quality improvement projects that met American Board of Pediatrics requirements. Through ongoing mentorship, methodological expertise, and project support, POISE continues to strengthen quality improvement capacity and promote a culture of continuous learning and measurable improvement across the institution.

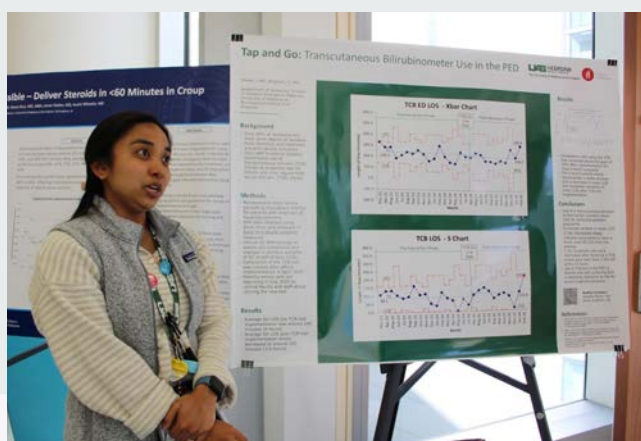
Enhancing Quality Improvement Through Epic Cosmos



The Pediatric Office of Improvement Science (POISE) has expanded its expertise by developing multiple Quality Improvement Officers with access to Epic Cosmos, a national clinical data network. This capability allows POISE to provide more advanced quality improvement consultation by helping teams compare their performance against national benchmarks for clinical processes and disease-specific outcomes.

Leveraging these data enables teams to identify meaningful opportunities for improvement, prioritize interventions, and evaluate the impact of changes using national comparative data. This investment strengthens POISE's ability to support data-driven quality improvement initiatives and advance high-value care across the institution.

Patient Quality and Safety Day

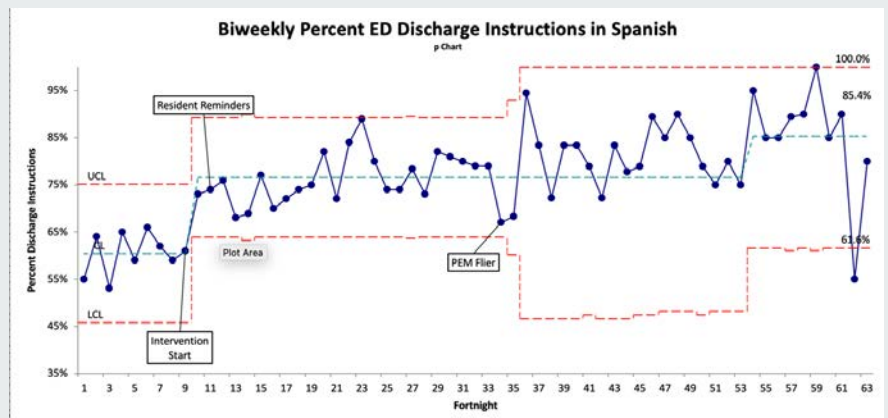
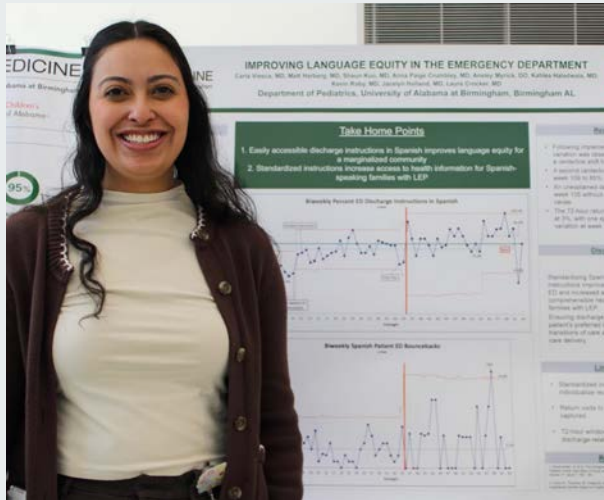


The 6th Annual Safety & Quality Day, hosted by the Pediatric Office of Improvement Science (POISE), brought together faculty, trainees, nurses, other healthcare professionals, and quality improvement leaders to explore innovative strategies for advancing pediatric patient safety. Centered on the theme, "From Arcade to AI: Advancing Patient Safety," the event featured presentations on artificial intelligence, automation, communication, and quality improvement, followed by a poster walk showcasing projects from across the Department of Pediatrics. Safety & Quality Day continues to foster collaboration, promote scholarly exchange, and highlight the innovative work driving safer, higher-quality care for children and families.

RESIDENT QI AWARDS WINNER

IMPROVING LANGUAGE EQUITY FOR SPANISH SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

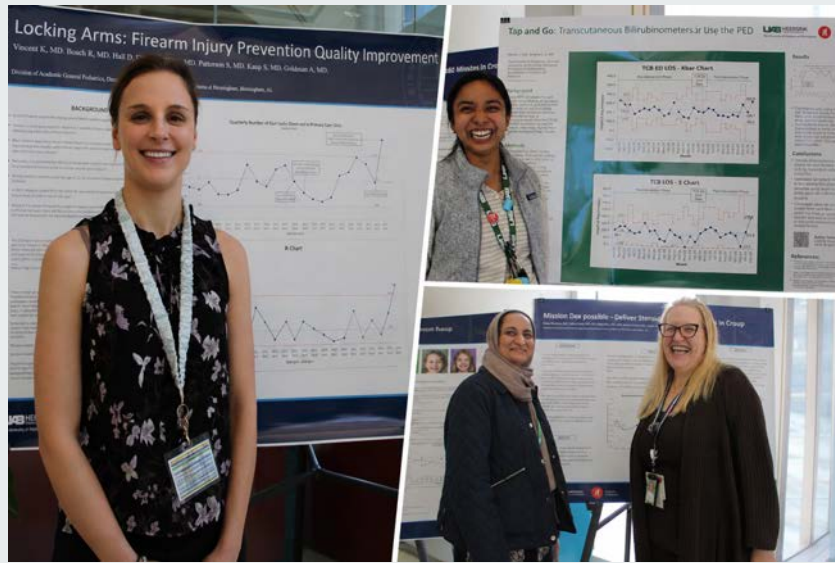
Carla Viesca, Matt Hargberg, Shaun Kuo, Ansley Myrick, Anna Paige Crumbley
Kahlea Haladwala, JayceIn Holland, Laura Crocker Mitchell



The 2026 Resident Quality Improvement Award was presented to Dr. Carla Viesca and the project team in recognition of their outstanding quality improvement initiative, Improving Language Equity for Spanish-Speaking Patients in the Emergency Department. The project was selected as the top resident quality improvement presentation during the 6th Annual Safety & Quality Day, highlighting its innovation, measurable impact, and potential to improve patient outcomes.

The team's project addressed a critical barrier to equitable care by increasing the use of standardized, evidence-based Spanish-language discharge instructions for families with limited English proficiency (LEP). By improving communication at discharge, the initiative seeks to enhance caregiver understanding, increase adherence to treatment recommendations, reduce unnecessary return visits to the Emergency Department, and ultimately improve the quality and safety of care for Spanish-speaking families served at Children's of Alabama.

ADDITIONAL ABSTRACT HIGHLIGHTS



Better Assessment and Responses to Croup in Kids (BARCK)

Authors: Kelsey Thetford, Meghan Harrison, BARCK Group Site 61

Deimplementation of High-Flow and Narrow-Bore Nasal Cannulas to Reduce BPD

Authors: Kulsajan Bhatia, Sara Stuart, Colm Travers, Deena Elsheik, Samuel J. Gentle, Waldemar A. Carlo, Namasivayam Ambalavanan

Improving Firearm Safety Counseling in Primary Care

Authors: Reba Bosch, Suzannah Patterson, Dalton Hall, Michael Padgett, Alyssa Goldman, Shelby Kaup, Kathleen Vincent

Mental Health Screening for Pediatric Rheumatology Patients

Authors: Bethany Walker, Livie Timmerman Blackmon, John Bridges, Brittany Huynh, Randall Cron, Sara Harbison, Carolyn Lacy, Emma Stoeb, Annelle Reed, Eileen Rife, Isabell Robles Sanchez, Tana Webb, Rochelle Sapp, Erin Carr, Brooke Wyrosdick, Melissa Mannion, Smitherman

Mission: Dex Possible – Deliver Steroids in <60 Minutes

Authors: Tooba Mansoor, Alexis Ricci, Valerie Davis, James Statler, Austin Wheeler

Tap and Go: Transcutaneous Bilirubinometer Use in the PED

Author: Isabella Masler

Unchecking Chest X-Rays in Bronchiolitis Care

Authors: Daniel Cooper, Lauren Oliver, Deena Elsheikh, Lauryn Bass, Adolfo Molina, Mary Orr, Michele Nichols, Valerie Davis

ADDITIONAL ABSTRACT HIGHLIGHTS



Where Have All the Pediatricians Gone: Pediatric MedEd Development

Authors: Michelle Veters, Adolfo Molina, Nick Rockwell, Laurie Marzullo

Wishing for Sunshine and Rainbows: Improving Communication

Authors: Stephanie Berger, Chang Wu, Adolfo Molina

Expedited Partner Therapy Implementation

Authors: Heather Relyea Ashley, Lauren Brewer, Kara Huls

Utilizing a QI-Based Approach to Improve ECMO Delivery in a Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit

Michael A. Brock MD, Robert Sorabella MD, W Hampton Gray MD, Martha McBride, Mallory Stewart, Ahmad Khalil MD, Santiago Borasino MD, Ashley Moellinger, Anniston Liscomb, Melissa Sindelar, Carlisle O'Meara, and Jonathon Byrnes MD

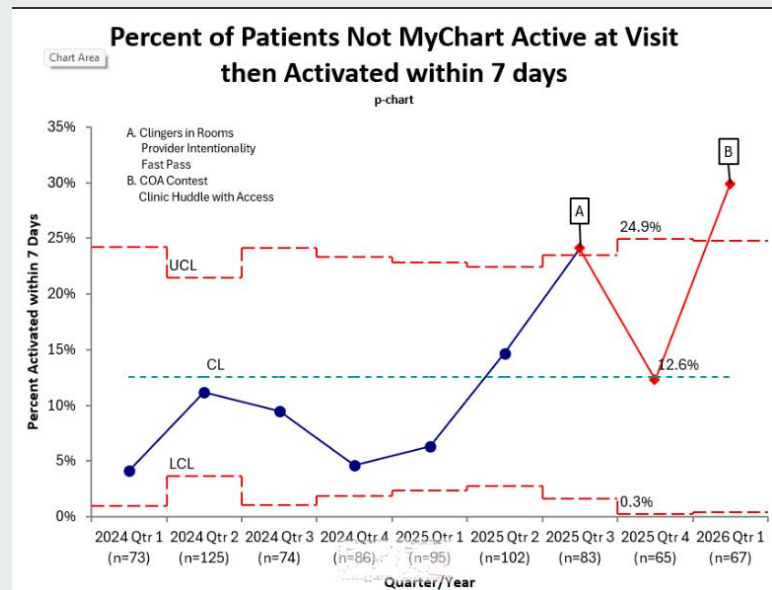
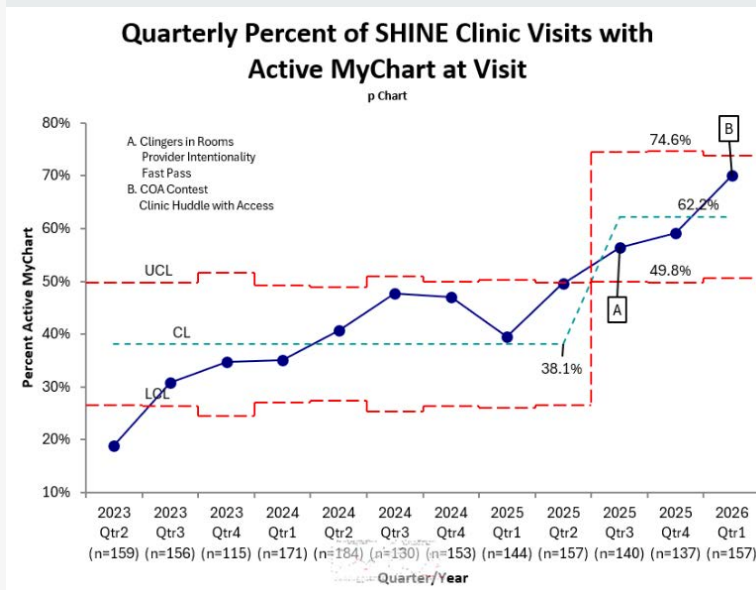
A Low Burden, Electronic Based Flight Analysis Model for Quality Improvement in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery.

Ashley Moellinger, CRNP, MSHQS, Anniston Liscomb, RN, Matthew Clark, MD, Santiago Borasino, MD

Improving Communication in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit Through Nurse Led Rounds

Caitlin Arney, RN, BSN1, Ashley Moellinger, MSN, CPNP -AC, MSHQS1, Santiago Borasino, MD, MPH1,2, Tedra Smith, DNP, CPNP-PC, CNE, CHSE3, Curry Bordelon, DNP, MBA, NNP-BC, CPNP-AC, CNE, ANEF3

Excellence Through Partnership.



The Excellence Through Partnership (ETP) initiative continues to strengthen collaboration between Children's of Alabama and the UAB Department of Pediatrics by connecting clinical teams with POISE's quality improvement expertise. Through individualized coaching and data-driven consultation, POISE partners with project teams to transform ideas into measurable improvements that enhance patient care.

As part of these collaborative efforts, POISE supports teams throughout the quality improvement journey by refining SMART aims, defining meaningful process and outcome measures, developing statistical process control (SPC) charts, guiding Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles, and preparing projects for presentations and publication. This support has contributed to initiatives such as Weight Management, Clinical Neurophysiology Laboratory, Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and Implementing a Mental Health Screener, demonstrating how partnership and continuous coaching help translate data into meaningful improvements for patients and families.

Building on Our Momentum



As POISE looks toward the remainder of 2026, our focus is on expanding quality improvement capacity, strengthening collaborative partnerships, and increasing the scholarly impact of improvement initiatives. By continuing to invest in coaching, education, and data-driven support, we aim to equip more teams with the tools needed to achieve sustainable improvements in patient care.

Key priorities include:

- Increase quality improvement coaching to support more teams in achieving meaningful, measurable outcomes.
- Strengthen collaboration through Excellence Through Partnership (ETP) by expanding interdisciplinary quality improvement initiatives across the Department of Pediatrics.
- Advance data-driven improvement by increasing utilization of Epic Cosmos and other quality improvement resources to inform benchmarking and project development.

Connect with POISE

Whether you're just beginning your QI journey or building on prior experience, the POISE team is here to guide you. We are dedicated to improving pediatric outcomes across Alabama through hands-on support, expert coaching, and collaborative opportunities tailored to your project's needs.



What We Offer:

- **Project Development Support**

From shaping early ideas to implementing effective interventions, we'll help you design QI projects that drive real impact.

- **Workshops and Training**

Gain skills and confidence through our training programs, including writing workshops, QI coaching, and skill-building events.

- **MOC Part IV Credit**

We assist in securing MOC Part IV certification for eligible QI projects, streamlining the process from submission to completion.

- **Personalized Coaching**

Our experienced QI officers offer one-on-one mentoring to help refine your goals, troubleshoot barriers, and sustain momentum.

- **Collaborative Partnerships**

Work alongside POISE on new initiatives or strengthen existing projects through shared expertise and strategic collaboration.

Let's Work Together to Improve Pediatric Care and outcomes.

Contact us at POISE@uabmc.edu to learn more about how we can assist or how to get involved.