

# Call for applications: Healthcare Improvement Fellowship 2026-2027

**Fellowship Directors:** Dr. Brian Wong (CQuIPS) and Dr. Andrea Patey (CWC)

The **Centre for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (CQuIPS)** and **Choosing Wisely Canada (CWC)** are now accepting applications for their Healthcare Improvement Fellowship program for September 2026 to June 2027. The Healthcare Improvement Fellowship consists of two streams:

- **Stream 1:** CQuIPS stream
- **Stream 2:** CWC stream

## What are the aims of the Healthcare Improvement Fellowship?

1. Provide an opportunity for career development to expand expertise and grow leadership in the field
2. Foster a community of Fellows that have a strong connection to CQuIPS and/or CWC.
3. Integrate Fellows into initiatives that advance the overall mission and strategic priorities of CQuIPS and/or CWC.

## Who is eligible to be a CQuIPS/CWC Fellow?

- Individuals who have completed advanced training (e.g., certificate or graduate programs) or have significant career experience in quality improvement (QI), health services research or a related field.
- We encourage individuals from any healthcare professional training background and/or relevant graduate school training background to apply, including healthcare leaders at all career stages and clinicians working in academic health sciences centres.
- Applicants must attest to having a minimum of one half day a week of protected time to carry out Fellowship-related work and attend Fellow sessions.

## About CQuIPS and CWC

- **CQuIPS**, located at the University of Toronto Temerty Faculty of Medicine ([www.cquips.ca](http://www.cquips.ca)), has the mission to accelerate and deepen the work of people and organizations that are passionate about enhancing quality and patient safety through the promotion of research and scholarship, education and training and networking and partnerships. CQuIPS is a leading centre globally and oversees the SQUIRE international writing guidelines for quality improvement.
- **CWC** is the national voice for reducing unnecessary tests and treatments in Canada (<https://choosingwiselycanada.org/>). Central to the campaign are recommendations developed by national clinician societies that identify frequently overused tests and treatments that are not supported by scientific evidence and may expose patients to harm. Choosing Wisely Canada mobilizes health care providers and their organizations to adopt the recommendations and make them part of routine practice.

## What is the focus of CQuIPS/CWC Fellow activities?

- Fellowship activities offer the opportunity for Fellows to engage directly with leading experts to advance high-impact initiatives, build enduring collaborative relationships, and gain transferable skills and practical knowledge that strengthen your broader quality improvement efforts. The CQuIPS/CWC Fellowship consists of the following core components:

### 1. CQuIPS/CWC project:

- Fellows apply to work directly on a pre-specified CQuIPS or CWC initiative under the supervision of a CQuIPS/CWC mentor. The typical time commitment to meaningfully contribute to this work is a minimum of one half day a week in addition to other scheduled Fellowship activities.

### CQuIPS projects:

- a) Develop an Explanation and Elaboration document to support the dissemination and use of the updated SQUIRE 3.0 international QI writing guidelines
- b) Work with the CQuIPS Education Lead to pilot new training experiences being developed for a future Area of Focused Competence (AFC) program in patient safety and QI
- c) Create a toolkit to support the dissemination and use of an equity framework for QI within TAHSN hospitals and beyond
- d) Develop a new pilot education program aimed at increasing QI knowledge and skills amongst patient partners that work at healthcare organizations with QI teams
- e) Contribute to a program of research and scholarship to evaluate the impact of a regional integrated care model that connects LTC homes to acute care hospitals on care outcomes and experiences
- f) Joining one or more CQuIPS education programs (e.g., certificate courses, CQuIPS+, organizational workshops) as a 'faculty-in-training' to develop advanced skills in QI teaching and education

### CWC Projects

- a) Work with the Using Labs Wisely team to develop an approach to expanding the program to community labs.
- b) Participate in the development of a national recognition program for long-term care homes meeting the new Canadian target for appropriate use of antipsychotics.
- c) Work with Antibiotics Wisely and our Clinician Leads for Long-Term Care to inform the measurement of overuse and over testing for UTIs in long-term care.
- d) Develop new strategies to strengthen CW implementation efforts in primary care
- e) Work with the CWC Nursing team to increase awareness of CWC among NPs and increase NP uptake/implementation of CWC recommendations and resources \*NOTE: we are specifically seeking an NP.
- f) Lead CWC Hospital Designation teams on a research paper to identify key components of becoming a CWC designated hospital.
- g) Work with Using Blood Wisely team to develop new projects to build on the prior red blood cell transfusion program.
- h) Work to develop a new program focused on implementation of CWC in surgical specialties.

## 2. Fellowship sessions:

- Two in-person days (September 2026, May 2027, specific dates TBD).
- Monthly Fellowship sessions that involve Fellow presentations on topics of interest and project updates, guest speaker talks and networking activities.
- Guest speakers cover topics such as QI methodology, implementation science, equity and QI, patient/carer/family engagement and other emerging topics.

### What are the expected deliverables of the CQuIPS/CWC Fellowship?

1. Fellows will meet regularly with their mentors and work on their defined Fellowship project/initiatives demonstrating progress over the course of the Fellowship.
2. Fellows are responsible for delivering two presentations to the Fellows group.

### Is there a cost or financial support available for the CQuIPS/CWC Fellowship?

- There is no cost for the Fellowship program; for the in-person sessions held in Toronto, Canada, there are travel costs and accommodations for out-of-town Fellows.
- The Fellowship program does not provide a salary or stipend for Fellows.

### How do I apply?

To apply, please submit the following to [cquips.fellowship@sickkids.ca](mailto:cquips.fellowship@sickkids.ca) by **May 1, 2026**:

- A letter of interest outlining:
  - Your preferred fellowship Stream (i.e., CQuIPS or CWC stream)
  - Past education and/or experience in QI and current professional QI roles and activities
  - Indicating the project(s) you are interested in, how your past training and/or experiences prepare you to contribute meaningfully to the selected project(s), and how participation will advance your professional and career development goals.
- Abbreviated CV (5 pages max)
- A letter of recommendation from your Executive Sponsor (e.g., Department head, Program Director etc.)

### Equity and diversity

CQuIPS and CWC strive to be equitable and inclusive communities and proactively seek to increase diversity among their community members. Our values regarding equity and diversity are linked with our unwavering commitment to excellence in the pursuit of our academic mission.

### Accessibility

CQuIPS and CWC are committed to the principles of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). As such, we strive to make our recruitment, assessment and selection processes as accessible as possible and provide accommodations as required for applicants with disabilities.

### Land acknowledgement

CQuIPS and CWC wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

**Questions?** If you have any questions about the Fellowship or the application process, please contact the Fellowship Coordinator at [cquips.fellowship@sickkids.ca](mailto:cquips.fellowship@sickkids.ca).