



Compass SHARP in Practice Microlearning Series



Module 16: Sustainability & Continuous Quality Improvement

Welcome to Compass SHARP in Practice, a quick high-yield learning session made for busy healthcare professionals like you. In each episode, our Compass coaches will explore a real-world case, define a clinical goal, and walk through practical strategies to improve care. Whether you're tuning in via video, audio, or reading the summary, we hope to sharpen your skills and build knowledge that helps you better care for your patients.

A Case

A hospital's opioid stewardship team celebrates major reductions in prescribing after one year. But by year two, the data begins creeping upward. Reminders lapse, dashboards go unused, and initial enthusiasm wanes.

This pattern is common. Sustaining change requires ongoing visibility, feedback, and shared accountability.

Goal

Our goal in this module is to outline practical ways to embed opioid stewardship into daily operations and culture.

First, build dashboards and share data consistently. Regularly updated dashboards displaying prescribing trends, refill rates, and patient satisfaction keep progress visible and drive accountability.

Second, make stewardship part of onboarding and annual education. Integrate opioid safety, multimodal analgesia, and patient education into staff orientation, annual competencies, and medical staff updates. Sustainability grows when knowledge becomes routine.

Third, celebrate wins and recognize contributors. Highlight success stories in newsletters, safety huddles, and leadership meetings. Recognizing small wins maintains motivation and reinforces that stewardship improves both safety and care quality.

Back to the Case

Let's revisit our hospital team. This time, leadership integrates opioid prescribing metrics into quarterly quality reports. Staff education continues, and departments maintaining low prescribing rates are celebrated.

The culture shifts from a project mindset to everyday practice, and improvements hold steady over time. Sustainability isn't about perfection—it's about persistence.



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Takeaways

- Keep opioid prescribing metrics visible and meaningful.
- Incorporate stewardship goals into hospital quality improvement plans.
- Refresh education regularly and ensure new staff are onboarded with opioid stewardship goals.
- Recognize and share successes to maintain momentum.

Thank You

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Thank you for all you do caring for your patients.