Informed Decision Making in Men's Health
Syllabus 2026-2027

Introduction

Supported by Novartis, the Weitzman Institute will offer a free Learning Collaborative (LC) designed to help participating health centers strengthen the care and services they provide to their patients and communities. The LC will provide tools and resources to assist health centers in engaging their patients to provide information about important health conditions, as well as encouraging patients and their families to become more active in making decisions about the care that is right for them. Specifically, this LC will focus on men's health and be offered to health centers located in Baltimore, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, and New York City.

Men's health is a broad topic and historically men have underutilized healthcare compared to women. Research suggests that there are multi-level (individual, interpersonal, organizational) barriers explaining these differences. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the leading causes of death among men in the United States are heart disease, cancer, and unintentional injuries. Among cancers affecting men, prostate, colorectal, and lung cancers account for a substantial burden of disease and mortality. In addition, a survey of several leading medical institutions (Veterans Health Administration, Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Kaiser Permanente, Texas Medical Center, and Henry Ford Health System) reveals five similar areas of focus for men's health: heart disease, prostate conditions, sexual health and erectile dysfunction, diabetes and obesity, and mental health and suicide.

The health conditions on which we will focus in the LC are based on the above information – prostate conditions (cancer screening and prostatic hypertrophy) and sexual health (including erectile dysfunction). Participating health center teams will be asked to assess their education and decision support processes for men and their families related to these conditions. Teams will select one or more areas of education and decision support as the focus for their work in the LC. Since only some men experience issues related to sexual dysfunction or urinary issues, these areas will be encouraged but not required. All teams will include a focus on prostate cancer screening as all men with a prostate gland need to consider this issue. For example, each team could assess its current decision-making process and identify at least one priority gap.

Objectives of the Informed Decision Making in Men's Health Learning Collaborative

Participating health center teams will:

1. Assess strengths and areas for improvement in education and decision support for men related to sexual health and prostate conditions.
2. Design site-specific interventions to improve education and decision support related to men's health areas of focus.
3. Use quality improvement tools and skills to implement selected interventions for improving education and decision support.
4. Evaluate patient-level and system-level barriers and develop strategies to improve education and decision support for men and their families.

Learning Collaborative Structure

- Eight monthly 60-minute sessions via Zoom occurring on the 3rd Thursday of each month
- Four quality improvement (QI) guidance and feedback sessions
- Weekly internal health center team working meetings
- Weitzman Education Platform (WEP) for CME credit or participation hours
- Complete deliverables and upload drafted/complete deliverables to the Google Drive folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wU6r5ik4KScDMgBZr-e6XOI7VXpkgHyQ?usp=sharing

Deliverables

As evidence of learning and participation in the learning collaborative, teams will complete:

- Organizational Readiness to Implement Change (ORIC) Self-Assessment
- "North Star" Statement
- Global Aim Statement
- Fishbone Diagram
- Process Map
- Stakeholder Analysis
- Showcase Presentation

SYLLABUS

The following syllabus provides an overview of the topics that will be covered during the eight, monthly 60-minute learning sessions. **The syllabus is subject to change in order to best meet the learning needs of the cohort.** The deliverables are meant to help you structure your team meetings in order to keep you on track and help you to identify areas of improvement and better understand your practice.

Date	Topics and Assignments
September 2026	Pre-Work ● Identify your team members and send contact information to Meaghan Angers, angersm@mwhs1.com ● Review the syllabus and learning session schedule ● Register for the Weitzman Education Platform to receive CME credit or participation hours Deliverables ● Organizational Readiness to Implement Change (ORIC) Self-Assessment
Learning Session 1 – Welcome, Introductions, and Overview September 17th, 2026 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific	Session Topics ● Welcome and Introductions ● Foundations of the Learning Collaborative ● Men's Health Overview: Cancer Screening, Sexual Health, Urinary Issues ● Basics of Informed Decision-Making and Patient-Centered Care
Between Session 1 and Session 2	Deliverables ● Discussion Question: What additional factors (e.g. language, cultural) are important to be aware of in your community? ● Discussion Question: What is your approach to men's health at your health center? Does your health center have any resources for specialists related to men's health?
Learning Session 2 – Exploring Men's Health: Medical Uncertainty and Health Disparities October 15th, 2026 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific	Session Topics ● Medical Uncertainty in Men's Health ● Understanding Community and Cultural Factors That Influence Patient Care ● Social Drivers of Health and Their Impact on Men's Health Outcomes ● Addressing Bias and Health System Factors Affecting Men's Health

Between Session 2 and Session 3	<u>Deliverables</u> ● Discussion Question: What are your current strategies for facilitating conversations with male patients around sexual health? What are your organization's strengths and weaknesses? ● Discussion Question: How does your health center provide education for men in the following areas of focus: ○ Sexual health (including erectile dysfunction) ○ Urinary symptoms (including benign prostate hypertrophy) ○ Prostate cancer screening and overall prostate health
Learning Session 3 – Assessing Men's Education and Decision Support for Sexual Health and Prostate Conditions November 19th, 2026 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific	<u>Session Topics</u> ● Assessing Current Prostate and Sexual Health Education Practices ● Identifying Priority Populations for Prostate and Sexual Health Education ● Selecting a Focus Area for Improvement
Between Session 3 and Session 4	<u>Deliverables</u> ● Discussion Question: What aspect(s) of prostate and sexual health education and decision support do you believe can be improved? ● Draft Your "North Star" Statement <u>Quality Improvement Session</u> ● Thursday December 3rd, 2026 from 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific ● Topics: ○ Identifying a population ○ Selecting a focus ○ Writing an aim statement
Learning Session 4 – Measuring and Understanding Your Area of Focus December 17th, 2026 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific	<u>Session Topics</u> ● Assessing Current Performance Measures ● Identifying Opportunities to Improve Prostate and Sexual Health Education and Shared-Decision Making ● Mapping Your Optimal Workflow

Between Session 4 and Session 5	<u>Deliverables</u> ● Discussion Question: What ideas do you have for changes needed to enhance prostate health and sexual health education and decision support for men? ● Draft Your Global Aim Statement <u>Quality Improvement Session</u> ● Thursday January 7th, 2027 from 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific ● Topics: ○ Understanding measurement (overall population and differences between groups) ○ Selecting a focus using a fishbone diagram ○ Process mapping
Learning Session 5 – Planning Your Improvement January 21st, 2027 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific	<u>Session Topics</u> ● Developing Strategies to Improve Prostate and Sexual Health Education and Shared Decision-Making ● Engaging Internal & External Stakeholders and Building Leadership Support ● Assessing Resources and Planning for Sustainable Implementation
Between Session 5 and Session 6	<u>Deliverables</u> ● Discussion Question: What resources are available to connect within the community specific to men's health (e.g. educational materials, other organizations, community health workers, peer navigators)? ● Fishbone Diagram ● Process Map <u>Quality Improvement Session</u> ● Thursday January 28th, 2027 from 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific ● Topics: ○ Stakeholder Analysis ○ Selecting a change to implement using your fishbone diagram ○ Testing your change (PDSA cycle)
Learning Session 6 – Involving the Care Team and Community February 18th, 2027 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific	<u>Session Topics</u> ● Optimizing Team-Based Care for Men's Health Education and Shared Decision-Making ● Expanding Non-Traditional Care Team Members and Clinical Partners ● Building and Leveraging Community Resources and Partnerships

Between Session 6 and Session 7	<u>Deliverables</u> ● Discussion Question: How do you engage with patients in the decision-making process? ● Discussion Question: Do you provide training within your organization on motivational interviewing? ● Stakeholder Analysis <u>Quality Improvement Session</u> ● Thursday February 25th, 2027 from 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific ● Topics: ○ Role optimization ○ Health coaching and training
Learning Session 7 – Shared Decision Making in Men's Health March 18th, 2027 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific	<u>Session Topics</u> ● Understanding the Principles of Shared Decision-Making ● Implementing Shared Decision-Making in Clinical Practice ● Engaging the Care Team in Shared Decision-Making
Between Session 7 and Session 8	<u>Deliverables</u> ● Showcase Presentation
Learning Session 8 – Showcase & Sustaining Practice Changes April 15th, 2027 2:30-3:30pm Eastern / 11:30am-12:30pm Pacific	<u>Session Topics</u> ● Health center presentations: share practice changes made during the learning collaborative ● Discuss the Project ECHO format and case presentations
After the Learning Collaborative	<u>Deliverables</u> ● Submit drafted/completed deliverables to the Google Drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wU6r5ik4KScDMgBZr-e6XOI7VXpkgHyQ?usp=sharing ● Complete evaluation survey ● Complete Organizational Readiness to Implement Change (ORIC)