**Text Box 4: The Quality Improvement Cycle**

1. Use core standards as a benchmark to assess current services, and to provide a baseline to compare future changes
2. Engage in QI starting by identifying gaps or deficiencies in current provision
3. Understand the whole system to uncover barriers; analyse causes, and explore alternative ways to improve
4. Develop a plan to address the gaps or deficiencies and improve provision
5. Test and monitor the changes; implement successful changes
6. Sustain changes; continuous quality improvement

Adapted from: Quality Improvement – the key to providing improved quality of care; South Africa