Despite a growing recognition of the need to embed patient safety and also quality improvement (QI) in every aspect of healthcare education, approaches to teaching healthcare students, trainees and providers are inconsistent, and the effectiveness of this education is unknown. In addition, patient safety and QI education is often overlooked in continuing education.

To accelerate a consistent approach to patient safety and QI education, CPSI invited more than 50 representatives of academic, accrediting, certifying, regulatory bodies, and provincial and national organizations interested in the education of health professionals, to attend a roundtable on January 20, 2015.

One key focus of the roundtable was that patient safety and QI education must cover all types of learning, including formal, informal, continuing development and skill maintenance. The range of people who need this type of education and training includes direct providers, clinical and administrative leaders, professionals, support staff, patients, families, and policy makers. It also includes education in universities, colleges and the healthcare delivery sectors.

An action plan was developed with meeting participants, which resulted in agreement on 5 themes and a strong commitment to 12 actions. Follow up conversations with over 30 key organizations resulted in firm commitments to lead or co-lead specific actions. The Patient Safety Education Action has been incorporated into the Integrated Patient Safety Action Plan.