

Paradigm shift: Implementation of a formal needs assessment framework to identify gaps in care and prioritize trauma program resources

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INTRODUCTION

- **Needs assessments** are tools used to identify gaps in the current condition (baseline), determine the desired condition, and recommend steps to take in order to achieve the desired state.
- A **framework** for needs assessments was developed by the Nova Scotia Health Trauma Program (Trauma NS) in collaboration with Implementation Science at NS Health.
- **Research Objective:** To describe the findings of a 4-part provincial needs assessment to identify gaps in trauma care and prioritize trauma program resources.

METHODS

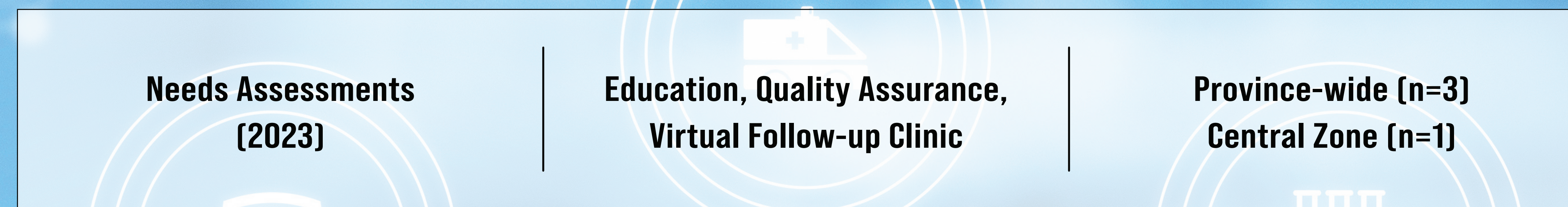
- Semi-structured **interviews** were conducted with key leaders and stakeholders around the province.
- **Rapid reviews** of the published and grey literature were performed along with a review of existing quality data from past Trauma NS educational events (Advanced Trauma Life Support Course, Provincial Trauma Course).

RESULTS

- Using a standard framework, **4 needs assessments** were conducted during summer/fall of 2023:
 - Provincial trauma education program
 - Trauma education program in Central Zone
 - Virtual follow-up clinic (QEII Trauma Consult Service)
 - Quality assurance within the trauma program
- Various evaluations have been performed in the past and several evaluations are ongoing; however, there is no formalized process to guide providers/stakeholders and support their ability to conduct evaluations.
- **Continuous evaluations** are essential to the ability of a trauma program to grow efficiently and sustainably.

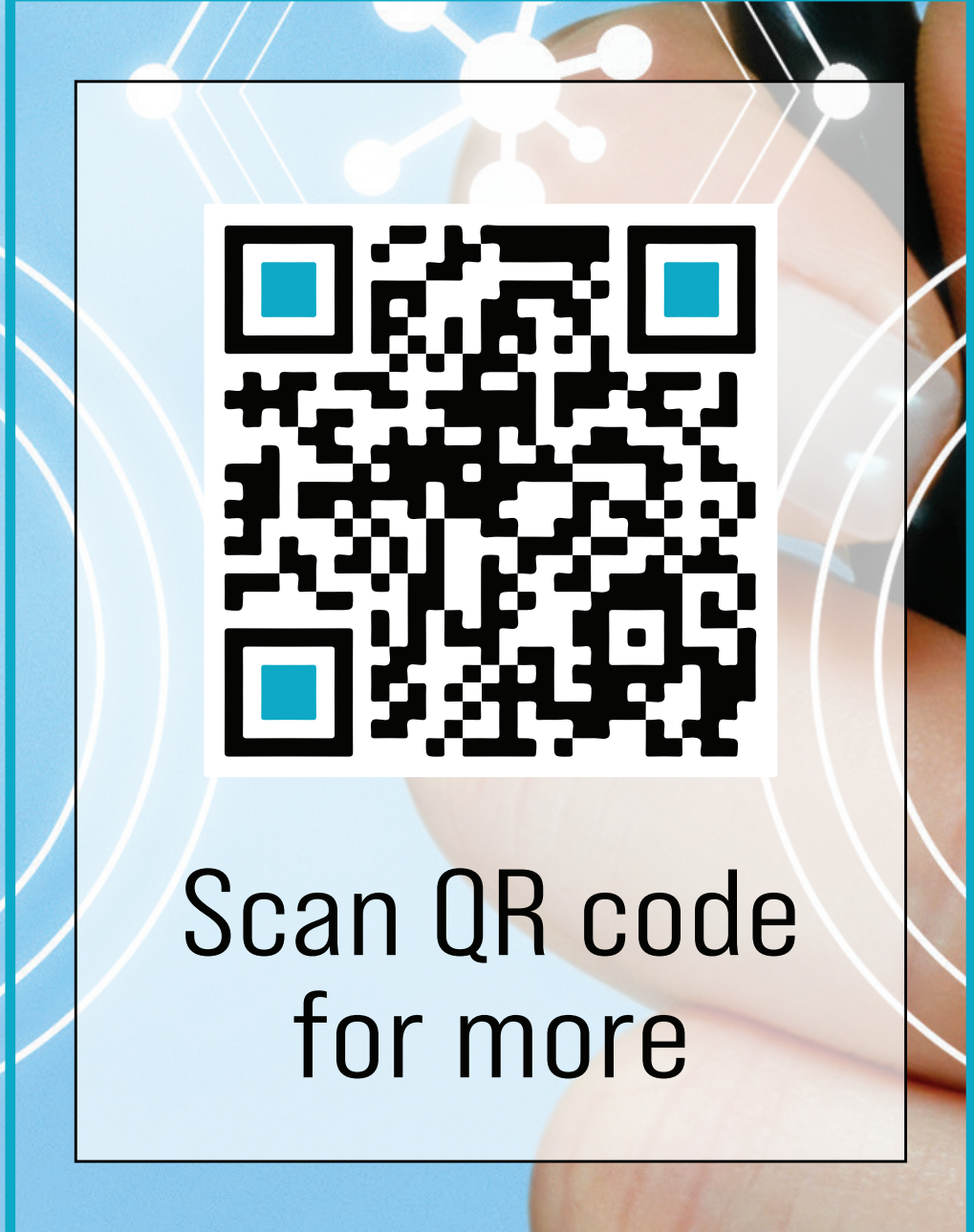
DISCUSSION

- Based on the findings and recommendations of these needs assessments, important gaps were **identified** and are currently being addressed.
- Additional assessments related to the provincial trauma program/system in Nova Scotia are in progress.

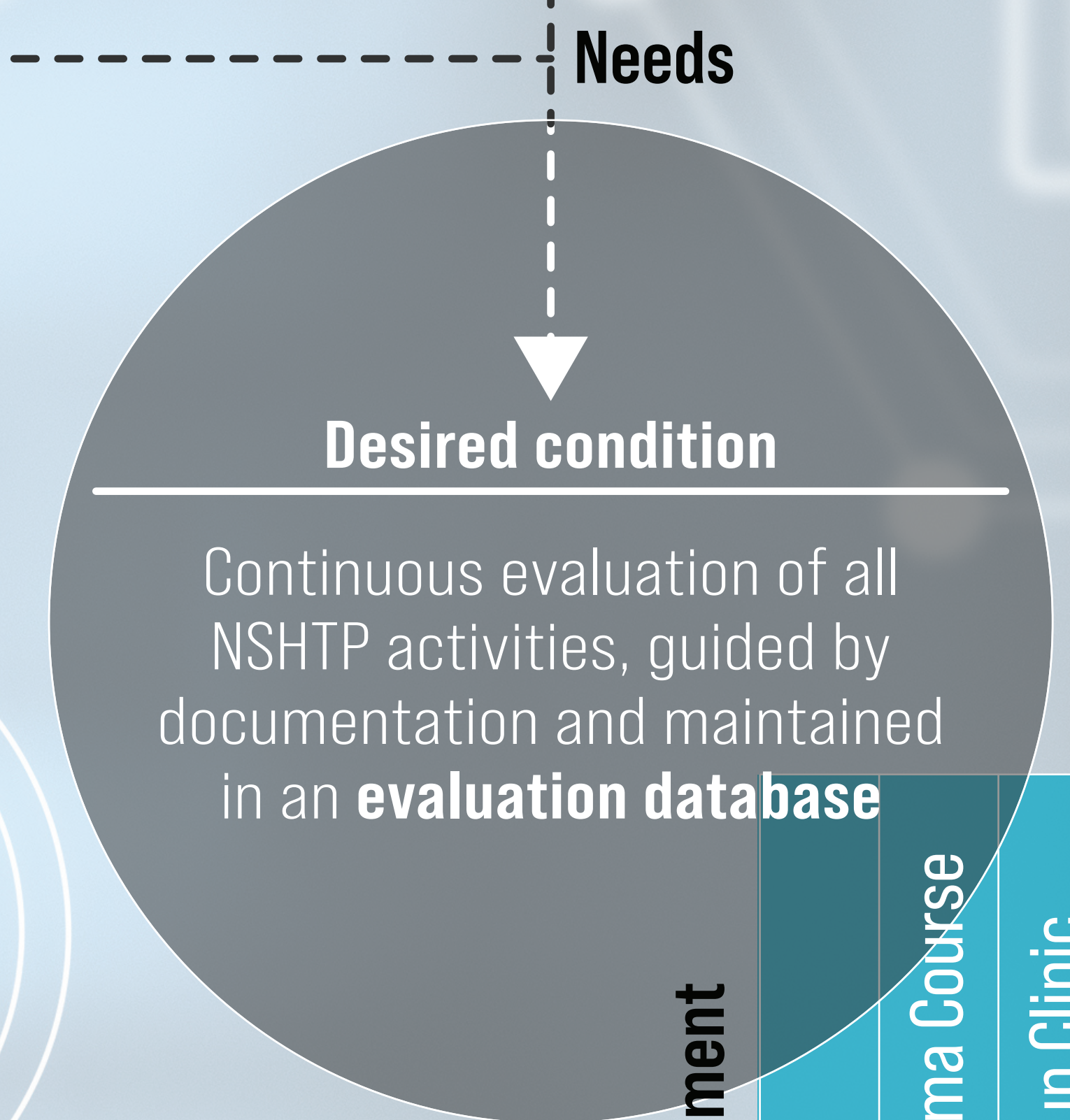


Continuous evaluations are essential in any trauma program to ensure success

Establishing a formalized process to guide providers/stakeholders can facilitate routine evaluations of quality, performance and satisfaction



Current condition
Unknown state of evaluations being conducted across the NSHTP



Desired condition
Continuous evaluation of all NSHTP activities, guided by documentation and maintained in an evaluation database

Recommendations	Area of Assessment			
	ATLS Course	Provincial Trauma Course	Virtual Follow-up Clinic	QA for the NSHTP
QR codes to access online surveys	✓	✓	✓	✓
Incentivize survey completion	✓	✓	✓	✓
Utilize an education framework	✓	✓		
Increase simulation training	✓	✓		
Short-/Mid-/Long-term evaluations			✓	
Evaluate provider satisfaction	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collect data on logistical concerns	✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop CQI framework				✓
Hold quarterly CQI meetings				✓
Focused regular Quality meetings				✓
Track evaluations with Smartsheet	✓	✓	✓	✓
Routine NSHTP roundtable updates	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 1. Summary of recommendations. ATLS = Advanced Trauma Life Support; QA = quality assurance; NSHTP = Nova Scotia Health Trauma Program; CQI = continuous quality improvement.

