

## 500-Word Scholarship Essay

### Importance of Project Management in Healthcare

Healthcare is an innately process-driven industry, yet only recently in this sector has the importance of project management's tools, skill sets, and operational necessity been understood. In an industry where quality is continually demanded and a significant amount of improvement needs to occur, embracing and using the methodology behind project management can ensure this continual enhancement takes place- and does so in the most efficient and cost-effective way. In the clinical side of patient care, as well as the business and operational aspects of providing care, specific goals must be attained and certain objectives reached in precise timeframes. This is the underlying purpose for project management, and if the other premises of this skill set are used, more effective planning, better organization, and more efficient allocation of resources could be achieved.

Delegating the most pertinent people and key stakeholders to a specific team is critically important to achieving set objectives and ensuring buy-in of ideas and implementations, especially in dealing with busy people who already have too much to accomplish. This certainly holds true in regards to the medical and administrative professionals in healthcare. Each is tasked with critical activities which must be completed on tight schedules, and wasting their time is not only foolhardy but costly. Thus, by adopting and implementing the steps and processes purported by project management, this commodity of professional time can be used in the most effective and efficient manner while still enabling more to be successfully achieved. So, using the knowledge and guidelines offered by project management allows for more to be done with less, in regards to time, personnel, and money.

In an industry where perfection is literally the goal, a plethora of projects exist- projects for improvement and adaptation, for implementation and creation, projects for financial gain and time savings, for patient care and better access. The list goes on, and will continue to grow. It is feasible to accomplish these projects in the most efficient and effective way by fully adopting and utilizing the processes, tools, and methods of true project management. And this need is greater than ever and continues to grow, as costs become more unsustainable and continuous quality improvement is more a budding ideology than a standard practice. Therefore, the importance of project management in the healthcare industry is undeniable, and the time for fully embracing it has arrived.