From your work, what are some 'lessons learned' about what to ensure we put in place or consider when planning?

- Before implementing, consult patients and families to identify gaps in discharge and develop an understanding of the current gaps and challenges. One way to do this is through a patient mapping exercise completed together, with patients, caregivers and providers.
- Leadership is crucial to the success of this initiative; ensure you have an executive champion, and someone that will support the work and provide resources when necessary
- Co-design and plan implementation with patients and families, as well as frontline providers who are involved in the discharge process
- Ensure you have a project manager who can dedicate time to work on implementing PODS. In some cases, teams have seconded staff to fill the role of project manager – someone who knows the processes already, knows staff and leaders, to enable the project to move forward quickly
- If you are planning to working this into existing electronic records, ensure that you have an executive champion, and that you get this in the queue as quickly as possible – often there is a time lag in adapting the PODS and the ability to get this into the electronic system to enable implementation; or you may need to consider how you phase in implementation and the adaptation/iterative phases along with enabling technology for implementation

Any guidance on scope i.e. involving just one hospital department or service or were you expecting the entire hospital would be part of the collaborative?

We want Improvement Teams to be successful in spreading and scaling the initiative and welcome submissions implementing at one unit to whole hospital and beyond. In all cases, teams must demonstrate how adequate time and resources will be secured to implement and evaluate the success of the initiative. Applicants may offer further justification for their chosen scale of implementation when describing their chosen area of care/patient population.

Will you consider more than one application or project per organization?

Yes, we will consider more than one application per organization. However, through merit review, we will look at the overall composition of teams accepted to the collaborative across Canada. In some instances, applications from the same organization may be asked to consider joining forces.