Now that we have a better understanding of teams in general, let's look at what defines a "Quality Improvement Team." A quality improvement team is a group of individuals who work to improve the quality of work in an organization. The following are some key characteristics of a quality team:

1. There is a clearly-defined purpose, goal or mission.
   - All members know the purpose of the team.
   - All members know the expected outcome.
   - All members know the criteria for success.

2. There is a shared commitment to the task.
   - All members agree upon the primary goals of the team.
   - All members are clear about each other’s personal and professional objectives for the task.
   - There is a willingness to work for the good of the team and continuously improve

3. There are clear ground rules and roles within the team.
   - Roles are clearly defined and agreed upon by all members.
   - The strengths (and weaknesses) of each team member are known.
   - There is an agreed process for resolving conflicts when they arise.

4. There is a culture of respect for individuals and their ideas.
   - Each team member feels that they have a voice.
   - There is a team ethic of respect for others' views.
   - There is open communication. Feedback is given and received in a professional and respectful manner.

5. There are effective processes and practices in use.
   - There are regular and efficient team meetings that make effective use of available time.
   - There are agreed-upon timelines for outcomes.
   - There are established rules to ensure individuals meet deadlines and work to the agreed-upon standard.