Principal Continuous Improvement Engineer

Location:
Maryland Heights, MO, United States

About Curium

Curium is the world's largest nuclear medicine company with more than a century of industry experience. We develop, manufacture, and distribute world-class radiopharmaceutical products to help patients around the globe. Our proven heritage combined with a pioneering approach are the hallmarks to deliver innovation, excellence, and unparalleled service.

With manufacturing facilities across Europe and the United States, Curium delivers SPECT, PET, and therapeutic radiopharmaceutical solutions for life-threatening diseases to over 14 million patients annually. The name 'Curium' honors the legacy of pioneering radioactive researchers Marie and Pierre Curie, after whom the radioactive element curium was named and emphasizes our focus on nuclear medicine. The tagline 'Life Forward' represents our commitment to securing a brighter future for all those we serve: An enhanced quality of care for our patients. A trusted partner to our customers. A supportive employer to our valued team.

Summary of Position

The Principal Continuous Improvement Engineer executes the vision for translating Curium NA's strategy and goals to efficient, sustainable, and repeatable processes using Six Sigma, Lean and advanced project management techniques. The position creates value by reducing execution time, cost, and errors within the three key operational functions: Development, Manufacturing and Compliance.

Essential Functions

- Designs and implements processes, systems, and governance consistent with Curium's continuous improvement vision. Collaborates with Development, Manufacturing and Compliance teams to apply continuous improvement principles (Six Sigma, Lean, etc.) to reduce execution time and improve first-time-right performance.
- Leads ad-hoc expediting efforts, rapid action teams, root cause analysis efforts and Kaizen events to achieve continuous improvement goals. Functions as a supplemental project manager when projects get off-track or face significant barriers. Leverages cross-functional collaboration to achieve timely outcomes from these activities.
- Partners with Development, Manufacturing and Compliance teams to plan and execute improvement programs. Provides Lean, Six Sigma, data analysis and process design skills to support these programs.
- Leads data and statistical analysis efforts. Guides teams on leveraging data / statistical outcomes to improve decision making. Reduces execution time and shortens time to detect / resolve critical problems with advanced predictive statistical models and simulations. Shortens new product development time using statistical design of experiments.
- Administers systems used to support the continuous improvement vision. Develops procedures, reports, and training to facilitate leveraging these systems to efficiently achieve program goals. Develops and manages metrics for monitoring process and system performance.

Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree in engineering or related scientific field.
- 10 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, with experience as both an individual contributor and as a supervisor / team leader.
- Assignments in at least two of the following areas: new product development, technical transfer, manufacturing operations, supply chain operations and compliance (FDA, NRC, OSHA, EPA).
- Trained in Six Sigma and/or Lean; certification as a Six Sigma Black Belt preferred. At least 5 years of demonstrated improvement gains achieved through application of Six Sigma / Lean skills.
- Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- History of leading high profile problem resolution in high stress / tight timeline situations.
- Strong business acumen, demonstrating the ability to translate technical process activities to business / financial results.
- Demonstrated project management experience in estimating, developing, and managing schedules / resource plans.
- Experience with project management systems and application to multi-stage drug development projects desired.
- Knowledge of drug manufacturing and related compliance programs (FDA, NRC, EPA, OSHA).
- Knowledge of radiochemistry, aseptic processes, equipment procurement / construction / qualification and added benefit.
- Demonstrated skills in leading improvement teams. Skills include team facilitation, process mapping, data collection and analysis, risk assessment, innovation and change implementation.
- Can create and deliver effective reports and presentations.
- Skilled in balancing technical and behavioral elements of improvement and change management programs.
- Works well under pressure; able to function with abstract knowledge and short deadlines.
- Capable of leading multiple simultaneous projects.

Working Conditions

- Willingness to work in a plant producing radioactive materials and requiring all employees to participate in safety programs designed to minimize potential and/or actual exposure levels.
- Willingness to work in a team-based environment.
- Close attention to detail required.
- May be required to sit or stand for prolonged periods of time while performing duties.
- Must be able to work outside of regular work hours.
- Responsibilities also include the ability to lift, walk, bend, stoop, push, pull, reach, and climb stairs and ladders with or without accommodation.
- Must possess good hand-eye coordination.