

November 27, 2015



Friday Focus



CMS Awards \$10 Million for Quality Improvement Projects that Align with the CMS Quality Strategy

This month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it awarded “just under \$10 million” to 16 partnership-driven special innovation projects from 10 Quality Innovation-Quality Improvement Organizations (QIN-QIOs). (CMS, 2015)

As November is Diabetes Awareness Month, let us take a moment to examine at two of these projects:

- TMF received funding for its *Medication Adherence* QIN-QIO. More specifically, their project “will use education campaigns (patient/physician/pharmacist) to improve medication adherence for diabetes, hypertension, and cholesterol medication.” The “planned outcome is improvement in Medicare Part D Claims for Medication Adherence (diabetes medications, hypertension, and cholesterol) and physician use of e-prescribing” (CMS, 2015, para 10).
- HealthInsight received funding for its *Expanding Participation in Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs* QIS-QIO. Their project “will build on the existing infrastructure of Community Self-Management Education Programs in Oregon to increase integration and access by patients with chronic diseases. Planned outcome is improvement in HbA1c, high blood pressure control, and improvement in the percent of clinics with a policy to document self-management goals for persons with high blood pressure, diabetes, or pre-diabetes...” (CMS, 2015, para 13). HealthInsight states they plan to increase the number of diabetics who are referred to and graduate from comprehensive chronic disease self-management programs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services thinks so highly of this that the CMS goes on to list the HealthInsight program under the heading of “Interventions Ripe for Spread and Scalability.”

SWHP in collaboration with BSWH is currently implementing diabetic and hypertension programs consistent with the central premises described in the above projects. Like the HealthInsight project, the SWHP in collaboration with BSWH Clinics are restructuring the diabetic and hypertension patient/family/provider/pharmacy education programs. The basis for the change in the diabetic program is the research and evidence based best practices published by the American Diabetic Association as part of their Center of Excellence. Meanwhile the hypertension program is based on the research published in the Million Hearts Campaign and supported by the American Heart Association’s evidence based best practices.

At this time, the SWHP is actively working with BSWH Clinics to facilitate these changes by:

- Providing the clinics with the new materials and supplies necessary to institute a program that is comprehensive, cross discipline, and interactive;
- Educating staff in how to effectively use the new programs and obtain additional supplies;
- Ensuring that the old materials are removed.

The Kaizen quality improvement methodology teaches us that from the continuous use of small changes such as how we educate our patient/physician/pharmacist come great things. Remember, our members and those that will rate us are watching.

References

CMS. (2015, November 13). *CMS Awards 16 Partnership-Driven Special Innovation Projects to 10 QIN-QIOs | Quality Improvement Organizations*. Retrieved from <http://qioprogram.org/cms-awards-16-partnership-driven-special-innovation-projects-10-qin-qios>

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