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MEDTAPP Hypertension Quality Improvement Project



CARDI·OH
Ohio Cardiovascular Health Collaborative



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The Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program (MEDTAPP) Hypertension Quality Improvement Project (QIP) is the first quality improvement project that is a part of the Ohio Department of Medicaid's (ODM's) Chronic Conditions Quality Collaborative.

The Hypertension QIP employs a quality improvement approach modelled after the Model for Improvement popularized by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) to promote the use of evidence-based strategies known to improve hypertension management. The Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-based (SMART) aims of the project are for participating practices to increase the percentage of patients seen with controlled hypertension by 15%, and to increase the percentage of African American patients seen with controlled hypertension by 20%. Information and best practices related to the QIP are shared in monthly interactive webinars referred to as Action Period calls.

A design committee consisting of clinical and subject matter experts throughout Ohio developed components of the Hypertension QIP, including a **quality improvement change package** that incorporates evidence-based research interventions for the management of hypertension. With coaching from quality improvement guides, the 8 wave one primary care practices across multiple health systems in Ohio tested strategies related to implementing best clinical practices, such as accurate blood pressure management and effective treatment. In addition, all six of ODM's contracted managed care plans are using IHI-like quality improvement science tools to test payer-based strategies for improving hypertension control, such as facilitation of medication adherence and home blood pressure monitoring. These combined strategies led to a 14% **improvement** in blood pressure control (see data slides).

Data from Electronic Health Records (EHRs) are submitted and analyzed twice a month to inform project progress and provide a feedback mechanism for participating clinical teams to view the success of their Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) testing cycles. ODM's managed care plans combine these data with claims data to track their success in providing 90 day prescriptions and facilitating access to home blood pressure monitors.

Moving forward, the 8 wave one primary care clinical practice sites will continue to sustain activities along with continued improvements as needed. An additional group of 13 practice sites across five health systems onboarded in April 2019 to participate in wave two of the project. Wave two is building on lessons learned during the initial phase with wave one sites.

Partners



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