



“The Integrator”: Who Convenes the Stakeholders to Improve Health?

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Name of project or collaborative

Optimizing Health Outcomes for Children with Asthma in Delaware

Geography

Selected Locations in Delaware, including target zip codes in Wilmington, Seaford/Laurel and Dover.

Brief description

Nemours is implementing a multi-faceted approach to addressing pediatric asthma. The target population includes pediatric patients on Nemours' asthma registries in three primary care clinics in the above locations, as well as 42,000 children in the surrounding zip codes. The nested model of care incorporates: a patient-centered medical home (PCMH) with integrated behavioral health services; a navigator workforce, led by Community Health Workers; an integrator function to address broader systems issues, led by community health liaisons; and optimizing the use of technology. Key partners include: state-based chapters of the American Lung Association; state/local housing and public health departments and stakeholders; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; leadership councils in the three targeted communities, including representatives from public health, health care, child care, housing, Head Start and schools; as well as other coalitions and community-based partners. The initiative was launched in 2012.

Relevance of project to this breakout session

Nemours' asthma initiative provides an example of a health system serving in the role of an integrator – convening multi-sector partners in support of a shared goal; advancing practice and systems changes; collecting and analyzing data to assess progress; developing tools to disseminate knowledge; and providing training and technical assistance to providers who work with children in order to promote sustainable systems change. Nemours' previous work in establishing itself as the integrator for a place-based, multi-sector obesity prevention initiative facilitated Nemours' integrator role in addressing pediatric asthma in DE. Relationships were already built and could be leveraged. Additionally, the lessons from the asthma work inform Nemours' national work in other topic areas, and a continuous feedback loop is created.

Results/outcomes

Early findings from Nemours' self-monitoring plan indicate that the cumulative number of asthma-related ED visits to the Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children (AIDHC) for asthma registry patients shows a decrease of more than 40% from 2012 to 2013. Other indicators are being tracked. NORC is conducting an independent evaluation on behalf of CMS.

Funding

In 2012, Nemours received \$3.7 million from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's Health Care Innovation Award Round 1. Nemours has contributed resources to the effort, such as project leadership staffing (Director, Medical Director, community liaisons, etc.), as well as staffing from the Nemours Health Information Technology & KidsHealth teams.

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