

Current AHRQ Activity in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

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The Landscape Is Quickly Changing

- Health care reform has already begun
 - How is evidence integrated into the new environment?
 - How has the nature of evidence changed?
 - How do these changes affect providers, payers and patients?
- How do we ensure that these changes are beneficial?





What We Think We Know



"The truth is that for a large part of medical practice, we don't know what works. But we pay for it anyway."

H. Gilbert Welch, MD Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth



Current AHRQ Activity in Patient-**Centered Outcomes Research**



- Background: AHRQ and PCOR
- Recent Developments
- A Look Ahead
- Questions



Research that Addresses Patient Outcomes

Patient-Centeredness: The final frontier?

- Patient-centeredness may be the most challenging of all 6 domains of quality, because it is so difficult to define and measure
- But, it is also likely the most important, because it includes elements of all other domains





AHRQ'S Authority

- Section 1013; Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act
- Three parts:
 - Transparent, collaborative process for setting priorities
 - Conduct and support research
 - 3) Assure that findings are accessible and understandable by multiple audiences



Implementing Evidence-Based Treatment Decisions

- Which treatments work, for which patients, and what are the trade-offs?
 - Patient-centered outcomes research informs
 decisions by providing evidence and information on
 effectiveness, benefits and harms
- How can evidence-based improvements be translated and shared with providers, patients?
 - Effective Health Care Clinician and Consumer Guides
 - Continuing Medical Education
 - Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation;
 AHRQ Health Care Innovations Exchange



AHRQ's Effective Health Care Program

- From 2005 to 2009, AHRQ received \$129 million from Congress for patient-centered outcomes research
- Program has published more than 100 products, including summaries for clinicians and consumers, with plans for 75 more
- Emphasis on synthesis of existing evidence and creation of new evidence





EHC Products Developed By the Eisenberg Center

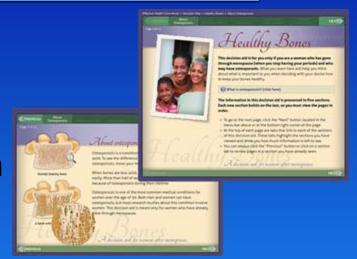


www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov



Recently Released Translation Products

- ADHD in Children
- ANA and RF tests for Musculoskeletal Complaints in Children
- Chronic Pelvic Pain
- Mechanical Thrombectomy
- Pain Management in Hip Fracture
- Preventing Fractures in Low Bone Density
- Urinary Incontinence in Women





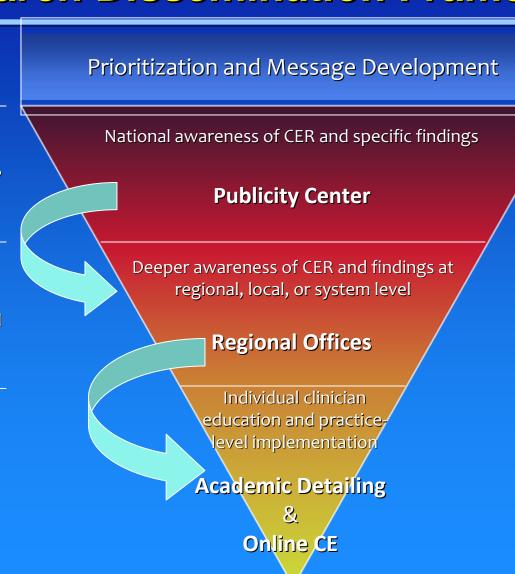


Patient Centered Outcomes Research Dissemination Framework

Example:

New Diabetes CER

- Media campaign
- Outreach to national orgs (i.e. ADA, AADE, Endocrine Society, AACE)
- Outreach to consumers
- Integrate message into Diabetes package
- Promote via regional/State chapters of national orgs, local advocacy orgs, and regional health systems
- Integrate clinical message into Diabetes AD package
- Promote/discuss in individual practice settings
- Create and promote CE modules based on individual findings



Evaluation



The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund and AHRQ

- Provides funding for AHRQ to disseminate research findings
 - Up to 20% of Patient-Centered Outcomes
 Research Trust Fund can be used to
 support research capacity building and
 dissemination activities



- Five national priorities:
 - Assessment of prevention, diagnostic, and treatment options
 - Improving healthcare systems
 - Communications and dissemination research
 - Addressing disparities
 - Accelerating patient-centered outcomes research and methodological research



Multidisciplinary Science: EDM Forum Research Networks

11 Projects Using Electronic Health Research for CER/PCOR and QI

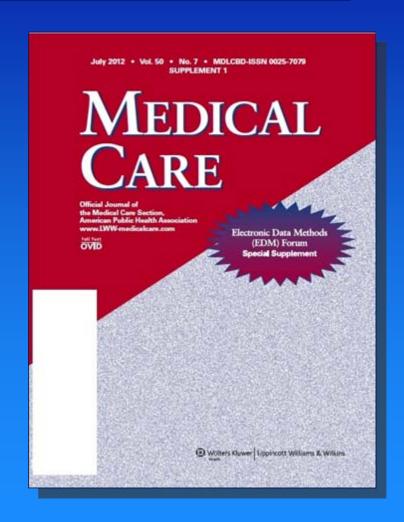


- Networks include between 12,000 and 7.5 million patients
- Potential reach of networks: Up to 50 million patients
- 38 CER studies
- Address all AHRQ priority populations and almost all AHRQ priority conditions



First Journal Supplement

- 14 commissioned and invited papers
- Informed by ongoing ARRA-funded work
- Three domains:
 - Analytic Methods
 - Clinical Informatics
 - Governance

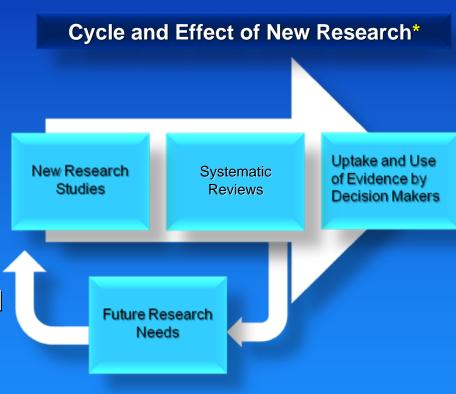




Prioritizing Future Research Needs

Identifying Research Needs for Improving Health Care *

- Article describes challenges and lessons learned in developing a systematic approach to identifying and prioritizing future research needs (FRN)
- Based on the approach initiated by EPCs in 2010 to better define patient-centered research needs from selected systematic reviews
- Focuses on stakeholder involvement as an essential tenet in the process





Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science

- Series of reports summarizing the evidence on quality improvement strategies for chronic conditions and other priorities:
 - Bundled Payment
 - Health Disparities
 - Patient-Centered Medical Home
 - Public Reporting
 - Medication Adherence



Evidence Report/Technology Assessment Number 208

Bundled Payment: Effects on Health Care Spending and Quality

Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science

Executive Summary

Background

This review is part of the Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science series, which aims to provide critical analysis of the existing literature on quality improvement strategies for a selection of diseases and practices. The review focuses on "bundled payment," a strategy for health care quality improvement and cost containment. This strategy has been the subject of increasing interest, with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announcing a large national bundled payment initiative in August 2011. Other reviews in the series will address a range of quality improvement topics arising from portfolios (areas of research) of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

We define "bundled payment" as a method in which payments to health care providers are related to the predetermined expected costs of a grouping, or "bundle," of related health care services. In contrast, fee-for-service payment typically involves payments for individual services, while capitation involves a single per capita prospective payment for all services over a fixed period of time, regardless of the number of services or episodes of care provided within that period. Within the bundled payment model, a variety of specific payment methods are possible. Bundles may be defined in different ways, covering varying periods of time and including single or multiple health care providers of different

Evidence-based Practice Program

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), through its Evidencebased Practice Centers (EPCs), sponsors the development of evidence reports and technology assessments to assist publicand private-sector organizations in their efforts to improve the quality of health care in the United States. The reports and assessments provide organizations with comprehensive, science-based information on common, costly medical conditions and new health care technologies. The EPCs systematically review the relevant scientific literature on topics assigned to them by AHRO and conduct additional analyses when appropriate prior to developing their reports and assessments.

AHRQ expects that the EPC evidence reports and technology assessments will inform individual health plans, providers, and purchasers as well as the health care system as a whole by providing important information to help improve health care quality.

The full report and this summary are available at www.effectivehealthcare. ahrq.gov/reports/final.cfm.



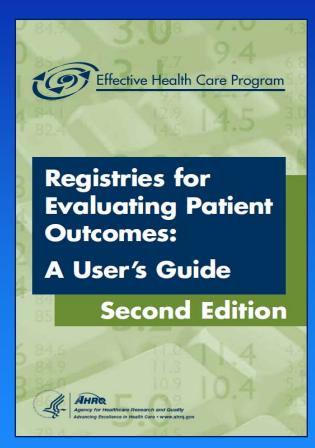


http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tp/gapbundtp.htm



Generating Information and Evidence with Registries

- Registries increasingly used to inform clinical decision-making
 - Chapters on topics including:
 - When to Stop a Registry
 - Use of Registries in Product Safety Assessment
 - Linking Registry Data
 - Interfacing Registries and Electronic Health Records





Expanding/Enhancing the Evidence-Base

AHRQ Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Grants



- Infrastructure Development Program (R24)
 - Responds to need for information about which clinical and system design interventions are most effective for patients under specific circumstances
 - Mentored Career Enhancement Award (K18)
 - Seeks investigators interested in developing new skills in patientcentered outcomes research research methodology and applying those methods to the research

www.ahrq.gov/fund/grantix.htm



Maintaining the Status Quo is Not an Option

- Evidence is being produced at an extremely rapid rate, but its incorporation into clinical practice is happening much more slowly
- Transparency efforts don't offer enough usable data for decisions regarding a specific disease and selection of a treatment option
- We face an underperforming health care system and untenable cost forecasts
- Too often, the patient is an afterthought





What Should the New Model Look Like?

- That remains to be determined, although overall things to consider include:
 - Stakeholders are engaged more and more when the strategic decisions are being made
 - Making evidence available earlier and during different intervals of a project
 - Thinking of publication as one step in the continuing process to get results into the hands of those who need it rather than the end of the research cycle
 - Testing multiple conclusions in the field rather than waiting until there is a 'right' answer



Where to From Here?

- Do more to ensure that new treatments and research knowledge reach patients and are implemented correctly
- Improve quality by improving access
- Expand the boundaries of basic science to include other "basic sciences" (e.g., epidemiology, psychology, communication, social marketing and economics)
- More focus on research and delivery of existing treatments



Your Role in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

- Nominate topics
 - Go to: effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov
 - Click on "Submit a suggestion for research"
- Comment on key questions and draft reports
- Use evidence reports to develop clinical recommendations
 - Clinician guides make recommendations about the evidence, not the clinical practice





Thank You



AHRQ Mission

To improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans

AHRQ Vision

As a result of AHRQ's efforts, American health care will provide services of the highest quality, with the best possible outcomes, at the lowest cost