



Great Plains Quality Innovation Network is the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

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Partners in Healthcare Quality Improvement

The Great Plains Quality Innovation Network's mission is to use the collective knowledge and resources of its members to achieve the aims of better health care, improved health, safer care and lower healthcare costs.

By collaborating with providers and the community on multiple, data-driven quality initiatives to improve patient safety, reduce harm and improve clinical care, we aspire to make health in our region the best in the nation.

Current programs for quality improvement, aligning with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Strategy, are scheduled through July 2019. Qualified staff across the four-state region provide quality improvement and technical assistance expertise in a broad range of healthcare topic areas:

- Antibiotic Stewardship
- Cardiac Health
- Care Coordination
- Diabetes Care
- Healthcare Infections
- Health Information Technology
- Immunizations
- Medication Safety
- Nursing Home Care
- Quality Payment Program
- Reducing Sepsis Harm and Death
- Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative

Learning and Action Network

The Great Plains Learning and Action Network (LAN) is a great opportunity to get connected and demonstrate commitment to quality improvement. All improvers welcomed; all healthcare professionals and partners are invited to join. LAN members will have access to educational sessions, best practice sharing from peers throughout the region and an abundance of resources and tools. Visit www.greatplainsqin.org/lan-signup-page to join today.



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Antibiotic Stewardship

Offering education, information and resource sharing

Goal:

- Educate clinicians, partners and stakeholders on the principles of antimicrobial stewardship to slow-resistance bacteria and prevent the spread of resistant infections
- Assisting outpatient providers to implement the CDC Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship

Cardiac Health

Working with providers, patients, partners and stakeholders to implement evidence-based practices that support the national Million Hearts® initiative

Goals:

- Offer resources and assistance on preventive cardiovascular best practices – **ABCs** (Aspirin Therapy, Blood Pressure Control, Cholesterol Control and Smoking Cessation)
- Improve the percentage of patients whose blood pressure is adequately controlled to 65 percent
- Increase the percentage of patients identified as tobacco users who are provided with cessation counseling to 65 percent
- Encourage home health agency participation in the national Home Health Cardiovascular Data Registry
- Empower individuals to make heart-healthy choices

Care Coordination

Forming community coalitions throughout the region to unite providers, stakeholders and consumers in reducing avoidable hospital admissions, readmissions and medical harm

Goals:

- Identify and implement community-level interventions that improve the care coordination and transitions across settings for consumers and family members
- Educate and assist in spreading evidence-based practices to improve care coordination and medication safety

Medication Safety

Partnering with providers, pharmacists and stakeholders to reduce Adverse Drug Events (ADEs) related to high-risk medications and improve medication safety in all healthcare settings

Goals:

- Develop medication safety interventions to reduce ADEs caused by high risk medications, including anticoagulants, diabetic agents and opioids
- Assist community coalitions to improve medication safety during care transitions

Diabetes Care

Improving the health outcomes of people with diabetes by providing and facilitating Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) training classes

Goals:

- Improve HbA1c, lipid, blood pressure and weight control outcomes for Medicare consumers with diabetes
- Decrease the number of people who require lower extremity amputations due to complications resulting from poorly controlled diabetes
- Improve the health literacy of people with diabetes
- Increase provider adherence to clinical guidelines related to HbA1c, lipids and eye exams

Health Information Technology

Collaborating with providers and stakeholders to build on successes, including providing services to more than 100,000 primary care providers nationwide

Goals:

- Improve Electronic Health Record (EHR) adoption rates, workflows and practice transformation
- Increase screening rates and delivery of preventive services
- Improve care access and coordination
- Reduce disparities in access and utilization of healthcare services

Immunizations

Relaying the importance of being up-to-date on vaccinations for overall improved health while collaborating with physician offices, pharmacies, public health units and home health agencies to adopt proven best practice approaches

Goals:

- Improve immunization rates to 70% for influenza and 90% for pneumonia
- Increase pneumonia immunizations for one million previously unimmunized Medicare consumers
- Promote adult immunizations status assessment, appropriate immunization or referral for immunization and documentation of Medicare consumer's immunization status to the state Immunization Information System (IIS)

Nursing Home Care

Partnering with and uniting nursing homes in a collaborative structure to share tools, knowledge and experiences for improving resident safety and clinical processes and reducing preventable harm

Goals:

- Assist nursing homes to attain a score of six or less on the National Nursing Home Quality Measure Composite Score
- Improve the targeted rate of reduction in the use of unnecessary antipsychotic medication in dementia residents
- Increase reporting and reduction of *Clostridium difficile* infections in nursing homes
- Promote antibiotic stewardship in nursing homes

Quality Payment Program

Assisting eligible clinicians to transition into the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) program

Goals:

- Provide technical assistance to better understand new reporting requirements to improve quality and cost of care, meet performance goals and sustain reimbursement

Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative

Supporting PTN (Practice Transformation Networks) to achieve large-scale health transformation

Goals:

- Promote payment and practice reform in primary/specialty care
- Foster care coordination between providers
- Establish community-based health teams to support chronic care management
- Promote improved quality and lower costs through a collaborative of peer-based learning networks

Special Innovation Projects

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awards special innovation projects to support QIN-QIOs in their work with communities to improve healthcare quality and efficiencies. These programs are intended to address identified health issues. Great Plains QIN was awarded special funding for four such projects: colorectal cancer screening, home health infection prevention and management, opioid reduction and reducing sepsis deaths and harm.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

Implementing evidence-based interventions for increasing colorectal cancer screening rates

This 18-month Special Innovation Project ended on January 31, 2018

Accomplishments:

- Partnered with physician clinics to implement processes that ensure screening recommendations and follow-up for all patients
- Supported healthcare facilities in the development of screening goals, policy change, patient reminders and reporting
- Raised awareness on the FluFit program
- Supported the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable 80% by 2018 Campaign
- 2017 80% by 2018 National Achievement Award Honoree

Home Health Infection Prevention and Management

Reducing acute care hospitalizations related to respiratory, urinary tract and wound infections in home health agencies

Strategy:

- Adopt infection prevention and management strategies in home health agencies to reduce acute care hospitalization related to respiratory, urinary tract and wound infections

Opioid Reduction

Preventing inappropriate opioid prescribing practices and promoting alternative, consumer-driven approaches to managing both chronic and acute pain

Goal:

- Reduce opioid prescribing in targeted Kansas communities when non-opioid pain management techniques and supports are available

Reducing Sepsis Harm and Death

Providing evidence-based tools, resources, training and subject matter experts to reach rural communities and raise awareness of sepsis as a medical emergency

The Project:

- Work in one rural geographical location in each state
- Increase awareness and early recognition of sepsis

Contact Us:

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**Quality Improvement
Organizations**
Sharing Knowledge. Improving Health Care.
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Great Plains
The logo for Great Plains Quality Innovation Network consists of three stylized, colorful shapes resembling waves or arrows pointing right, followed by the text "Great Plains Quality Innovation Network".

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