

Moving the Needle

Progress and Shared Success from the MaineHealth ACO

ACO Participants Made Significant Quality Gains in 2016

Our most recent ACO Quality Heat Map reveals that in 2016, MaineHealth ACO participants met the goal for eight out of nine key quality measures reported network-wide and closed thousands of quality measure gaps.

“This is good news,” says Jennifer Moore, MaineHealth ACO’s chief operating officer. “It should remind us to step back a moment and reflect on the real progress we’ve made in quality over the last twelve months.”

The year began by building on modest successes from 2015. Three out of nine key quality measure goals were being met network-wide and 4,954 measure gaps were identified. Twelve months later, the picture has changed dramatically. Participants ended the year meeting eight out of the nine key quality measure goals and had reduced the measure gap rate by 96 percent, down from 4,954 to 165.

Tracy Callahan, MaineHealth ACO’s senior director of ACO performance, points to improved communication between the ACO and practices as one factor in participants’ recent success. “Participants have made excellent use of our regional quality forums to talk about their challenges and needs. That’s given us at the ACO an opportunity to offer specific help, guidance and resources that can go directly to boosting performance on key measures.”

Beyond communication, participants’ 2016 success may also be a reflection of many disparate efforts combining for collective impact. “I think it’s a combination of pieces that are coming together,” says Tracy Callahan. “It’s the implementation of Patient Centered Medical Home, it’s KPIs, it’s having care managers, it’s EHRs, it’s getting better at processes. It’s really the whole package that’s helping practices figure out where to focus their energies.”

In 2017, we’ll continue to report on the same nine key measures that participants showed progress on in 2016. They include falls screening, depression screening, colorectal cancer screening, adult BMI, HbA1c, hypertension control, diabetic eye exam, tobacco cessation and pediatric BMI. New this year, we’ll be adding a tenth measure: breast cancer screening.

Congratulations to all the MaineHealth ACO participants for moving the needle so significantly on quality. We look forward to supporting your good work in the months to come.

The measure gap is an important metric that can sometimes be difficult to understand. It may be best defined as the number of positive measurement episodes needed to meet one or more measurement goals. For example, if an ACO region has a gap of 54 for the depression screening measure, it would need to document 54 more depression screenings among eligible patients to meet the goal.

Two Maine Agencies on Aging Awarded over \$1M in Federal Grant Funding

The MaineHealth Accountable Care Organization is pleased to announce that Spectrum Generations and the Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) have recently been awarded \$636,500 and \$478,779 (respectively) in grant funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Community Living.

The MaineHealth Accountable Care Organization and MaineHealth Elder Care Services are grant collaborators with the goal of developing sustainable falls prevention and self-management programs within regional healthcare systems.

Through this collaboration, they will work with participating ACO practices to embed a “Screen-Assess-Refer” model of care. This model includes education and tools from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries (STEADI) Toolkit.

Spectrum Generations will focus its program on chronic disease, chronic pain, and diabetes self-management and education, while expanding the delivery infrastructure and geographic reach of educational offerings.

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging will use the grant to develop an evidence-based falls prevention program network across the State of Maine. Statewide Area Agencies on Aging will develop more systematic outreach strategies, including building relationships with health care providers.

Spectrum Generations and SMAA have received two of only 16 grants awarded throughout the country.

For more information on the grant or to find out more on available fall prevention tools, please contact [Gloria Neault](#), MSN, RN, MaineHealth Program Manager.