



Quality Improvement Project

Why?

Ohio is in the top quartile of states for high cardiovascular disease (CVD) event rates (combined stroke and heart attacks). Ohio has a high adult prevalence of 2 key modifiable CVD risk factors: hypertension (35%) and smoking (21%). Improving blood pressure (BP) control and smoking cessation should strongly improve CVD events in Ohio.

What?

Adapt and test a Heart Healthy Quality Improvement (QI) process focused on cardiovascular health improvement and reducing disparities in CVD using a unique co-design approach.

How?

60 primary care practice sites will participate in an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality funded Heart Healthy QIP. Practices will participate in a kick off followed by quarterly webinars and monthly practice coaching for 1 year to implement evidence-based strategies to improve and reduce disparities in the ABCS (Aspirin when indicated, Blood pressure, Cholesterol management, and Smoking) with a primary focus on blood pressure and smoking.

When?

Practices must be ready to start by Jan 2022, but will be randomized to start QI activities sometime between January–June 2022.

Eligibility

Most recent HEDIS blood pressure control at the primary care practice level <70%, AND/OR smoking rates at the practice level >10%.

Expectations of Practices

- Allow a practice coach to shadow the practice to document current primary care practice
- Allow a core QI team from the practice to attend a half day kick off followed by monthly QI coaching calls and quarterly 1-hour webinars
- Recruit a patient or family member to participate on your QI team
- Share electronic health record data monthly on key process and outcome measures related to blood pressure control, cholesterol management, and smoking cessation
- Core QI team completes a 10–15 minute baseline and 1-year survey

Benefits to Practices

- Graphs to use with your practice to support continuous QI efforts
- Improved financial incentives related to value-based payment program quality metrics, such as blood pressure control and referring smokers for counseling
- Up to \$4000 payment for participation. Amount will vary depending on whether a practice needs support for EHR data reporting
- Free CME available for quarterly webinars. CME could be submitted for CEUs depending on the professional organization
- Free MOC available for family medicine physicians through the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians

If interested, please contact Cathy Sullivan at csullivan1@metrohealth.org to arrange a call to discuss participation by June 30, 2021. Enrollment is limited.

The MetroHealth System is accredited by the Ohio State Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians