

Northwell Health Creates EHR Tool that Supports Care Providers with PCMH Transformation

Clinical Snapshot, a point-of-care clinical quality dashboard created by a Northwell Health team of clinical and information technology professionals, led by Barry Goetz, MD, Director of Clinical Information Systems, displays key patient information in one place, on one screen within the Allscripts ambulatory electronic health record (EHR). The tool was developed to support rapid transformation of practices into Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH), and allows providers to access pertinent patient information without having to scroll through multiple screens within the EHR. It differentiates each patient based on their known condition(s), aids in identifying gaps in care, recommends screenings, and helps recognize where the patient may need additional counseling for self-management of health issues.

Team-based care models, such as PCMH, offer ways to deliver advanced, team-based care, but require more powerful care tools to efficiently support the process. With electronic health records, primary care providers have access to an abundance of information – sometimes too much information. “The charts are so clogged with data, said Joanne Gottridge, MD, Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine at Northwell Health, who provided clinical design guidance over the tool’s development. “The information is in the record somewhere, but to pull it all together in one easy-to-look-at view is a priority.”

How can the care process be supported so that doctors are able to spend the necessary time with their patients while delivering the appropriate care needed? “Historically, electronic health records haven’t always been designed to support efficient, team-based primary care, resulting in the difficulties of seeing what the patient needs all on one screen,” said Dr. Goetz.

Clinical Snapshot is available for use by the entire care team, and can help support the daily huddle that occurs in PCMH practices to quickly review the condition and needs of each patient, such as chronic disease problems, screenings, and immunizations. Any care needs that must be addressed with the patient are highlighted in red.

Clinical Snapshot has already been deployed to over 400 clinical users including primary care physicians and their care teams. So far the response has been overwhelmingly positive. “Clinical Snapshot is clearly a home run. The beauty of it is it’s in one screen shot,” said Dr. Gottridge.