

Population Management

Proactively identifying gaps in care and reaching out to patients overdue for treatment or preventive services.

Key Changes

- Ensure patients are linked to a specific provider and team (see Empanelment).
- **Decide** which patient populations and data elements to track.
- Create consensus among providers to follow selected evidence-based guidelines.
- Regularly generate actionable and trusted reports at the team level.
- Select and train population management staff.
- **Develop** and **document** criteria that specify who/when/how to take action.

Examples

- Ask staff which populations are most difficult to manage.
- Review current clinical outcomes to define high risk, high volume and or high cost subpopulations. Look for populations where you are meeting patient needs and/or clinical outcomes.
- Select a single sub-population to address.
- Set aim and measure for sub-population management.
- Choose evidence-based care algorithm for target sub-population.
- Providers review algorithms and endorse selected plan in a group meeting.

- Identify and resolve causes of clinical inertia.
- Create patient focus group to review plan and give feedback on tests of change.
- Develop new workflows and explicit roles for population tracking and outreach.
- Design tracking system that does not use the appointment schedule or medication refills.
- Develop script for staff to contact patients to educate and complete care plan.
- Test PDSAs of outreach scripts and workflows incorporating patient feedback.
- When process is stable, consider adding other sub-populations leveraging learning from early successes.

Search ImprovingPrimaryCare.org for more resources

Primary Care Team Guide Assessment-Related Questions

Me	Medical Assistant (MA)						
	Components	Level D	Level C	Level B	Level A		
9	MAs in our practice	mostly take vital signs and room patients.	perform a few clinical tasks beyond rooming patients such as reviewing medication lists or administering a PHQ- 2.	perform a few clinical tasks and collaborate with the provider in managing the panel (reviewing exception reports, making out-reach calls).	Collaborate with the provider in managing the panel, and play a major role providing preventive services, and services to chronically ill patients such as self-management coaching, or follow-up phone calls.		
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Registered Nurse (RN)

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10	RNs in our	are not part of the core	mostly triage phone calls and	Manage transitions within	Provide care management
	practice	practice team.	do injections or other	and across levels of care	for high risk patients and
			procedures.	(home care, hospital,	collaborate with providers in
				specialists). Provide specific	teaching and managing
				intensive care coordination	patients with chronic illness,
				and management to highest	monitoring response to
				risk patients.	treatment, and titrating
				-	treatment according to
					delegated order sets in
					independent nurse visits
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	Components	Level D	Level C	Level B	Level A	
15	Registry information on individual patients	is not available to practice teams for pre-visit planning or patient outreach.	is available to practice teams but is not routinely used for pre-visit planning or patient outreach.	is available to practice teams and routinely used for pre- visit planning or patient outreach, but only for a limited number of diseases and risk states.	is available to practice teams and routinely used for pre- visit planning and patient outreach, across a comprehensive set of diseases and risk states.	
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How Primary Care Teams Achieve the Quadruple Aim



Qi strategy
Teamwork