



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 will be randomized to start QI activities sometime between May - August 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