PARTNERSHIP FOR PATIENT CARE (PPC)
PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR 2016

Formed in 2006, Partnership for Patient Care, (PPC) is a multi-year, quality and patient safety effort involving hospitals in the five county southeastern Pennsylvania region, now joined by other providers and interested stakeholders in the area. Funded by Independence Blue Cross and the hospital community, the focus of PPC is to accelerate the effective adoption of evidence-based clinical practices by pooling the resources, knowledge, and efforts of healthcare providers in our region.

The Health Care Improvement Foundation (HCIF), an independent non-profit organization based in Philadelphia, provides program support and coordination for PPC initiatives. HCIF’s mission is to drive high-value health care through stakeholder collaboration and targeted quality improvement initiatives. Using HCIF’s approach, PPC has been recognized as an outstanding example of how advances in quality care can be achieved through large-scale regional collaboration.

PPC’s unique model of payer / provider collaboration has enjoyed robust levels of participation each year. Despite increasing merger and consolidation activity among SE PA health systems in 2015-16, there were 62 hospital/health system teams (from 34 organizations) engaged in regional programs in 2016, a slight increase from the previous year.

The profiles below describe the collaborative work funded by PPC in 2016.

**Pennsylvania Urology Regional Collaborative (PURC)**

Pennsylvania Urologic Regional Collaborative (PURC) is a quality improvement initiative that brings major urology practices together in a physician-led, multi-year, data-sharing and improvement collaborative aimed at advancing the quality of diagnosis and care for men with prostate cancer.

PURC was established with PPC funding in February, 2015, enrolling six large urology practices from across Southeastern PA. In 2016, the program attracted three additional practices from outside the region, with independent funding. There are currently 104 urologists that participate in PURC. Participating practices submit patient-level data to a cloud-based clinical registry. Reports are then generated to determine the performance of each practice and to drive improvement. Physician champions from each of the practice sites are responsible for reviewing and disseminating their practice reports, leading their practice improvement efforts, participating in one of three program workgroups, and joining program meetings. HCIF serves as the PURC “coordinating center” and provides administrative, clinical and database support for program members.
Addressing the Prostate Cancer Issue - What facilities are doing:

- Participating in a reliable, sustainable platform for prostate cancer data collection with real time feedback to identify practice trends and provide regional benchmarks. At the close of 2016, the PURC registry was tracking the diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for over 4,000 patients.
- Reducing variation in diagnostic services and care delivery including addressing the costs of “over-diagnosis” and “over-treatment” related to the increase in prostate cancer screening.
- Improving adherence to national guidelines including the American Urological Association’s Choosing Wisely campaign and treatment recommendations defined by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN).
- Expanding patient-centered decision-making among men faced with treatment choices for prostate cancer
- Identifying the role of molecular diagnostics and genomics and how they are integrated into clinical practice.
- Participating in collaborative discussions among physician champions that promote innovation and dissemination of best practices.

Improving CPOE Safety

The Computerized Prescriber Order Entry (CPOE) collaborative, funded jointly by PPC and the Cardinal Health Foundation, was a one-year collaborative ending in November 2016 that aimed to improve the utilization of hospital CPOE systems so that they provide the maximum safety benefit for patients. HCIF partnered with the experts at the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) who offered their extensive understanding of medication systems and related technology in designing and implementing the program. Over the course of the collaborative, ISMP evaluated the CPOE systems of six participating hospitals for their adequacy in detecting and preventing serious prescribing orders.

Addressing the CPOE Safety Issue - What facilities are doing:

- Using test scripts developed by ISMP, evaluated the safety of their systems with orders known to have caused harm or fatalities.
- Learning about their system limitations and vulnerabilities, such as inactivated maximum dose warnings, missing duplicate therapy alerts, the need for decision support for specific populations (such as pregnancy/lactation) and high risk drugs.
- Implementing specific recommendations for ways to optimize their medication systems and prevent future harm.

2016 PPC Leadership Summit

The annual Partnership for Patient Care Leadership Summit was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at the Top of the Tower at 1717 Arch St. in Philadelphia. Nearly 100 healthcare leaders and partners were in attendance. Dr. Pat Croskerry was the featured keynote speaker, presenting information on the timely and important topic of diagnostic error in healthcare. Three local experts then joined Dr. Croskerry in a moderated discussion about challenges in addressing diagnostic errors. The agenda also included an update on the PURC initiative from Physician Champions, Dr. Marc Smaldone and Dr. Robert Uzzo. Summit attendees shared in the recognition of the top entries in the 2015 Delaware Valley Patient Safety & Quality Award program, including a presentation by First Place Award Winner Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, a panel discussion among the current and past award winners, and a posterboard display of the top ten entries.