

Evaluating Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) for HIV Care

Objective: UCSF investigators are evaluating the effectiveness of Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) demonstration projects, which were recently funded through a initiative from the California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP). This work is part of the APRC's commitment to studying the effectiveness of innovative models of care recommended by the CHRP-sponsored Visioning Change Initiative.

The new PCMHs are community-based care systems that aim to provide coordinated, high quality, client-centered services for persons with HIV/AIDS. Interest in the PCMH model is driven by the changing nature of the HIV epidemic and the United States healthcare system. HIV increasingly affects underserved and older populations that have more complex prevention, mental health, and chronic health care needs. These populations benefit from integrated care and enhanced support to help patients navigate the medical system.

Concurrently, both the government and private sectors are undergoing substantial reform to try to offset spiraling increases in healthcare costs. As such, there is substantial interest in technologies and models of service delivery that are able to integrate and coordinate care and prevention across a range of providers while continuing to meet the needs of populations with complex healthcare problems. PCMH models offer a promising avenue for

Questions:

(1) How do PCMHs change the way HIV-related patient care is organized and delivered?

(2) How do PCMHs affect clinical care and patients' HIV-related health outcomes?

(3) Are patients satisfied with the quality of services provided under PCMHs?

(4) Do PCMHs enhance patient self-management?

(5) Are PCMHs cost-effective and sustainable?

achieving desired cost controls while also responding to the increasingly multidisciplinary nature of HIV care and prevention.

Activities: APRC investigators participated in the Visioning Change Initiative workgroup that conceived the project and collaborated in the development of a call for applications and application guidance.

The five demonstration sites chosen to take part in the Initiative are: (1) the Los Angeles County Office of AIDS Programs

and Policy in collaboration with the Rand Schrader Clinic at the University of Southern California Medical Center; (2) the San Francisco Department of Public Health in collaboration with the UC San Francisco (UCSF) Positive Health Program at San Francisco General Hospital, and 360: The Positive Care Center at UCSF; (3) St. Mary Medical Center Foundation in Long Beach; (4) Tri-City Health Center (Alameda County) in a consortium with AIDS Project East Bay, Alameda County Health Center, Asian Health Services, La Clinica de La Raza, and LifeLong Medical Center; and (5) the UC San Diego Owen Clinic.

Methods: The project will be employing mixed methods to address the research questions of interest. The exact study procedures and data collection instruments will be finalized in collaboration with investigators from the demonstration sites. The methods are likely to include key informant interviews, surveys of providers and patients, extraction of patient medical record information, time-motion studies, and cost analysis.

Timeline: Sites have been selected and an evaluation design is being developed. Meetings have occurred with a scientific advisory group and initial site visits will be conducted in Spring 2011. The project will be completed in three years.

