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NEWS
March 14, 2024

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Workgroup updates

Thank you for your continued participation in EQIC's affinity [workgroup meetings](#). See recent updates below.

Adverse drug events/opioid prescribing

At their Feb. 14 meeting, the group discussed current ADE measure data across the EQIC collaborative and congratulated hospitals for the improvement made across many of the ADE harm areas. Teams should review hospital-specific data to determine progress in the ADE measures. The group then reviewed the purpose and goals of the ADE rapid-cycle improvement program assessment tools.

Next steps for this group are to consider which ADE areas need attention and to complete an assessment on primary gaps and opportunities for improvement. Once the assessment is complete, teams should choose one opportunity for a Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle. The workgroup met again on March 13 in the new office hour format.

Infections

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Pressure injuries

The schedule for the pressure injury workgroup meetings has been updated; these will be held as office hours. Please let your project manager know of any topics you would like to discuss and mark these dates on your calendars:

Wednesday, May 1, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Readmissions

EQIC readmission workgroup participants continue to work on Plan-Do-Study Act interventions aimed at reducing preventable readmissions. At the Feb. 27 meeting, participants shared current work, challenges and successes and how they are collecting and using data to help identify trends in readmission risk and develop strategies to address these risks.

Additionally, hospitals are collaborating with skilled nursing facilities and community-based providers to meet the needs of those who are frequently readmitted or at high risk for readmission. The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for April 23.

Sepsis

The roadmap topic for the March 5 meeting was sepsis mortality. Jefferson Health presented on understanding and optimizing sepsis care through informatics and shared how they made sepsis an organizational priority by establishing an informatics-driven project team structure to standardize sepsis care, resulting in a significant reduction in severe sepsis/septic shock mortality.

The speakers discussed key factors for driving improvement using the electronic medical record and how the role of informatics and technology was transformative in leveraging their data, developing workflows and providing decision-support tools, predictive modeling and data analytics.

Interventions included rapidly implementing an enterprise sepsis solution through

emergency department early detection alerts, an Epic predictive model alert, sepsis navigator, a sepsis checklist with a timer, sepsis order sets and sepsis evaluation notes.

Team action steps to accelerate improvement include:

- establishing an informatics-driven project team and support structure;
- using human factors principles and expertise to design systems;
- implementing solutions to enhance team collaboration and workflows; and
- tailoring equity-focused interventions to identify and eliminate disparities.

The next workgroup meetings will be held as office hours on June 4 and Sept. 3.

EQIC events

EQIC's webinar series kicks off March 26

Join EQIC for the 2024 quality improvement webinar series, [Maintaining and sustaining a highly reliable quality improvement strategy](#). These sessions will:

- orient and refresh quality teams on the fundamentals of a strong quality improvement strategy; and
- build knowledge to strengthen the skills and confidence of hospital staff to sustain ongoing patient safety work.

Registration provides access to all three sessions. EQIC encourages all levels of hospital teams to participate.

Tuesday, March 26

Session 1: Unit-based safety and high reliability

Noon - 1 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29

Session 2: Closing the gap: Structures, processes and outcomes

1 - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26

Session 3: Data in action: Ready, set, go!

1 - 2 p.m.

Announcements

Survey reminder for hospital liaisons

EQIC requests additional information on your hospital's infection control staff training policy and asks hospital liaisons to complete this [one-question survey](#) by **Wednesday, March 20**. We appreciate your participation and continued support of EQIC. Please contact your project manager with any questions.

Share your QI success stories with EQIC; Deadline is Friday, March 15!

EQIC is calling for success story submissions to recognize quality improvement initiatives by our participating hospitals. Success stories are QI, patient safety and/or care transition initiatives in which results can be measured through quantitative data.

The stories will be shared among the collaborative, CMS and other CMS QI contractors. Interested hospitals should complete this [submission form](#), send it to egic@hanys.org and copy your PM by **5 p.m. on Friday, March 15**. Please be sure to secure the necessary organizational approvals before submitting.

Patient Safety Awareness Week

Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 10-16, is an opportunity to raise awareness about patient safety, celebrate successes and share resources. EQIC supports and celebrates the hospitals and health systems that prioritize patient safety every day of every week. Thank you for all you do to keep our patients and communities safe!

Tools and resources

The AHA Clinician Well-being Playbook v2.0

Burnout is not new. However, COVID-19 highlighted the challenges faced when administrative burden, sub-optimal communications systems and unbalanced teams collide with an extended crisis. Addressing burnout among clinicians and other healthcare professionals is a top challenge facing hospitals and health systems today and is fundamental to delivering high-quality care.

We must ensure that we focus on the care of our teams so they may best help our patients and communities. These [AHA resources](#) will help you take action by systematically tackling drivers of burnout and implementing changes to promote well-being.

Education

Thursday, April 11

[Pressure injury prevention: Zero harm](#)

1 - 2 p.m.

EQIC is featured on the April CMS Community of Practice Call along with a team from one of our participating critical access hospitals. Community Memorial Hospital will describe methods used to implement a pressure injury prevention program based on best-practice research and innovative advances in prevention techniques. The presentation highlights the multidisciplinary approach necessary to promote PIP, including early risk identification and comprehensive data collection methods that guide prevention and treatment decisions.

HQIC reliability and resilience learning action series

Convergence Health is hosting the [HQIC Reliability and Resilience Learning Action Series](#) to educate and activate hospital leaders on the concepts and practices of resilience and high reliability in healthcare. Featuring live and recorded presentations from hospital quality improvement contractors like EQIC, these sessions provide information for those interested in deepening their foundational knowledge about the concepts, theories and activities related to resiliency and high-reliability organizations.

Session 1: Tuesday, April 16

Practical application of resilience and reliability activities at scale

1 - 2 p.m.

Session 2: Friday, June 21

Stories from the field: Hospital case studies of reliability and resilience in action at the local level

1 - 2 p.m.

Questions?

Please contact [Cathleen Wright](#) or your [EQIC project manager](#) with any questions.

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