Importance of Health Information Technology and Data Analytics in an Integrated System

Data are key to improving population health. Our use of data at Primary Health Care has allowed us to make substantial improvements in population health, and our innovative use of data has earned us national recognition as a best practice medical home. This infographic describes attributes of appropriate data and how providers can use data to improve the Triple Aim of improved population health, improved patient experience, and decreased cost of care.

Key Findings

Innovative Risk Adjustment Models Will Look Beyond Diagnosis

Risk Adjustment Models Can Help Practices Identify Which Patients Need Extra Resources to Improve Their Health
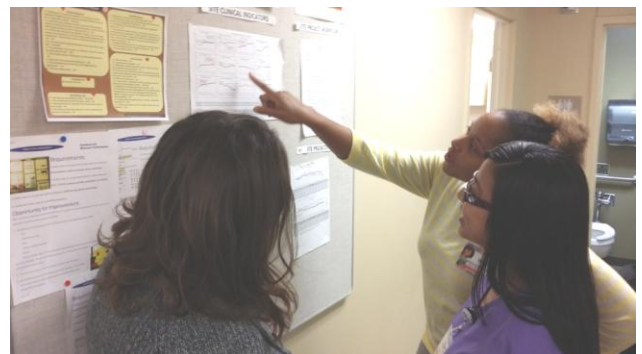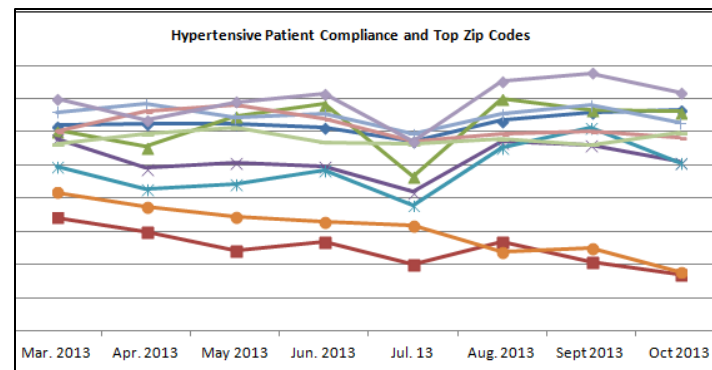
Patient A	Patient B
Diabetic	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
Hypertensive	Homeless
Heart surgery	Below Federal Poverty Line
Former Smoker	Risky health behaviors due to
Well Controlled	condition
0 hospitalizations in	Multiple primary care visits
past year	10 hospitalizations in past year

The first step in improving population health is understanding the root cause of poor outcomes. Traditionally, risk adjustment models have focused on diagnosis and other demographics, and have not included social determinants of health. Since these data allow practices to understand which patients are most complex, they can drive appropriate resource allocation. Social determinants of health can be just as important as diagnosis in determining overall health and utilization of patients.

Social Determinants Have an Impact on Clinical Quality Measures

Data Must Be Accessible and Actionable to Providers to Improve Population Health

To improve the health of Iowans, data must at least have the following attributes: timeliness, accessibility, actionability, comprehensiveness, and accuracy. Only data with these characteristics can help providers improve population health and decrease cost of care. Data need to be available at the system, practice, site, provider, and individual patient level. Data need to be easy to incorporate into practice-not logging into a separate site and trying to match data with the other data you have in patient charts, but instead being able to look at the patient holistically. These data need to be easy to work with—opportunities for care (such as immunizations, colonoscopies, and chronic care items) directly imported into huddle sheets that teams use in the morning to review for the days appointments to easily generated patient recall for patients due for care. Primary care providers need timely data that show cost of care provided outside of their practice (such as hospital data) to provide additional coaching to our patients.

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