Introducing CEP

The University of Pennsylvania Health System (UPHS) is a major US academic medical center. UPHS consists of three teaching hospitals, two primary care and specialty outreach centers, a rehabilitation and nursing facility, a hospice, and a home health agency. With so many institutions and so many providers, the potential for variation in practice is high. Such variation can adversely affect the quality, safety, and value of care.

Establishment of CEP

The Center for Evidence-Based Practice (CEP) opened in July 2009. In mission is to gather scientific evidence and apply it to decisions regarding clinical practice, formulation, and purchasing, and, in the process, reduce unnecessary variations in care and maximize the value of such care to our patient care. The center’s primary financial support comes from the office of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO).

Staffing and resources

Two co-directors
• Minimal medical (MD, CMO) vs. health policy backgrounds
• Diverse backgrounds including health policy, nursing, and research

Clinical leadership at the hospitals and outpatient practices in our system
• Program in evidence-based practice
• Resident education
• Research

Administrative assistant

Two co-directors
• Administrative assistant
• Respiratory therapist
• Health information & pharmaceutical background

Evidence Inventories:
Inventories offer a snapshot of the research landscape and can help determine the need for a full review.
Summaries of the quantity and type of published evidence for a particular topic.

Evidence Advisories:
Advisories are an important source of guidance and serve as a basis for work in systems
Types of evidence-based mentorship in CEP

Clinical results:
Evidence based practice

Implementation of evidence

Evidence-based Practice: AHRQ/University of Pennsylvania partnership

Other means of dissemination
• AHRQ/University of Pennsylvania Partnership
• AHRQ e-newsletters

Clinical practice guidelines:
Guidelines are an important tool for quality improvement partnerships

Using evidence to transform care

Example 1: Transfusion thresholds

Sample topic: Transfusion thresholds for red blood cells

Purpose:

Review of published guidelines

Indicators for transition in adult patients

Evidence Advisory findings:

Clinical decision support tool presented those indications in the inpatient EMR screen for ordering RBCs.

Clinical practice guidelines:

Evidence Advisory findings:

Table of recommended indications for transfusion, stratified by clinical context

Indications for transfusion in adults

Clinical results:

Other means of dissemination:
• Global dissemination

Clinical practice guidelines:

Evidence Advisory findings:

Clinical decision support tool presented those indications in the inpatient EMR screen for ordering RBCs.

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