The Value of a Hospital-Based Comparative Effectiveness Research Center

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Introduction

The Center for Evidence-based Practice (CEP) is a comparative effectiveness research center that supports clinical care and operational management at a major academic medical center. CEP gathers, synthesizes, and analyzes scientific evidence to support decisions regarding clinical practice, purchasing, formulations, and policy.

CEP plays a leading role in improving quality and safety, reducing unnecessary variation in care, and optimizing the use of health system resources.

CEP provides significant value by conducting evidence reviews that are rapid, rigorous, and focused on pragmatic questions from clinicians and health system decision makers.

CEP Organization and Staffing

The University of Pennsylvania Health System (Penn Medicine) consists of 3 teaching hospitals, 2 primary care and specialty networks, a rehabilitation facility, hospice, and a home health agency. CEP is housed in and funded by the Office of the health system’s Chief Medical Officer.

CEP Faculty and Staff:
- Physician Director & Co-director
- Physicians who provide patient care
- Trained in clinical epidemiology
- 3 full-time Analysts
- Experienced in nursing, biophysics, health policy
- 3 Physician and 3 Nurse Liaisons
- Clinical leaders representing each hospital and outpatient network
- Identify need for evidence reviews
- Disseminate report findings to clinicians and colleagues
- 3 Biomedical Librarians
- 1 Health Economist
- 1 Biostatistician
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- Total FTE: 5.5
- Annual budget: ~$750,000
- Funded by Office of the CMO

CEP Information Products

- Evidence Reviews: Systematic reviews of published clinical studies, with meta-analyses of data when appropriate. Local utilization and cost data can be incorporated to tailor reports to the health system’s environment.
- Evidence Advisories: Concise reports typically based on limited searches of guidelines and systematic reviews. An advisory can often answer a question more efficiently than a full evidence review.
- Evidence Inventories: Summaries of the quantity and type of published evidence for a particular topic. Inventories offer a snapshot of the research landscape and can help determine the need for a full review.
- Clinical Practice Guidelines: Developed alongside task force of key stakeholders. An Evidence Review is completed as part of the guideline.
- Systematic Evidence Reviews:
- Evidence Inventories
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