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## PCMHs Want More Electronic Health Information Exchange

*By Dottie Howe, M.A., MEd., Communications Director at the Ohio Health Information Partnership*

Ohio's physicians seeking recognition as Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMHs) are eager to exchange more health information with other providers and would like more hospitals and physicians to be part of that provider network.

That's the conclusion of a new study that explores the use of electronic health records and health information exchange for PCMHs in Ohio. The survey's purpose is to gauge how much data and information physicians and hospitals currently share on paper or electronically.

*Ohio's Health Information Exchange Survey for Patient-Centered Medical Homes*, a July 2013 study conducted by the Health Information Technology (HIT) Learning Center within the Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (OPCPCC), finds that 87 percent of the 81 practices that responded to the survey actively use electronic health records.



**The Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (OPCPCC)** is a coalition of primary care providers, insurers, employers, consumer advocates, government officials and public health professionals. They are joining together to create a more effective and efficient model of healthcare delivery in Ohio. That model of care is the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH).

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"More than 70 percent of the information being exchanged among practices occurs within their own health or hospital system, not outside of it. They expressed concern that the pool of providers is simply too limited for exchange," the study says.

PCMHs also would like more clinical data electronically from hospitals than they currently receive, indicating in order of importance that they want lab results, hospital and ER alerts, summaries of care, hospital reports and immunization records. More than 60 percent are not receiving any clinical information electronically from other providers,

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# NEOMED HPAC Program

Submitted by Northeast Ohio Medical University



For some time now, Americans have been hearing that soon there will be a shortfall of primary care physicians and other health care providers. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) predicts that by 2025 there will be a deficit of 65,800 primary care physicians to serve the country's health care needs. Many universities around the country, including Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) in Rootstown, Ohio, are working with students from a very young age to help increase the number of individuals interested in health care careers, especially medicine.

One new program developed by NEOMED is the Health Professions Affinity Community (HPAC). This innovative pipeline program is designed to provide opportunities for students in grades nine through twelve of varied backgrounds to advance their academic and career progress toward health professions, engage in their community around pressing health concerns, and empower them to make a difference. Students can benefit from opportunities to apply academic learning in real-world circumstances and from learning how to employ existing, and at times hidden, personal and community resources to improve their community.

The goals, strategies, and methods reflected in the HPAC program are consistent with NEOMED's goals of finding ways to better meet the vast health care needs of the region, by finding and supporting qualified "Ohio grown" students from diverse backgrounds desiring to enter health professions. The key principle of the program is that students increase their academic scholarship, understand the value of research, further engage in the community and become well prepared young adults who are able to achieve a level of preparation compatible with their health career aspirations.

## Ohio CMMI State Innovation Model Grant Update

Ohio was awarded the State Innovation Models (SIM) Design grant in April 2013, an initiative funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). The two main models of design work are focused on Episode-Based Payment and Patient Centered Medical Homes. Working groups have been meeting since June, which involve participation from state agencies as well as stakeholders including providers, health plans, employers, and other subject-matter experts from across the state.

Ohio's State Healthcare Innovation Plan is due October 30. Ohio's SIM plan will be presented to OPCPCC members at the OPCPCC fall conference on November 8. More details about Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's SIM grant are available on the [CMMI SIM web site](#).

The HPAC model is a customizable program. Each HPAC school or community organization partner is guided by a process that helps them to develop a menu of programs from which to develop student plans. The HPAC curriculum is based on the practice of engaging students in problem-based learning and community engagement to promote learning of a wide range of science, technology, engineering, math and medicine (STEM+M) topics and health career awareness. It rests on the presumption that adolescents have the capacity to improve their community and often simply need to be encouraged and empowered to do so.

More than 17 HPACS have been developed in Northeast Ohio under NEOMED's guidance, and more than 10 new HPACs are getting started with the new academic year. Students are working on a variety of projects that meet community needs such as depression, Type 2 Diabetes, body image, Sickle Cell Anemia, obesity, etc.

"HPAC students have a great opportunity to really make a difference through programs that are

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# PCMH Education Pilot Project Update

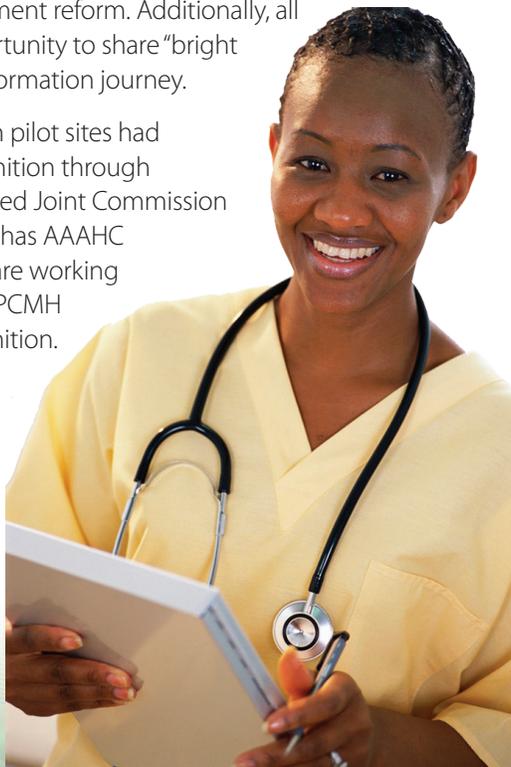
A year has passed since the beginning of Ohio's Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Education Pilot Project and much has been accomplished. Forty-seven Ohio primary care practices are transforming to PCMHs, with assistance from TransformMED. Scholarships have been awarded to medical and nursing students who have agreed to serve in primary care in Ohio, through the Ohio Board of Regent's Choose Ohio First scholarship program. PCMH curriculum reform is underway; a curriculum meeting with Ohio medical schools was held on July 11 and a meeting with graduate nursing programs is scheduled for October 10.

The PCMH Education Pilot Project (H.B. 198) sites are making excellent progress towards transforming to Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMHs). TransformMED hired an experienced practice coach based in Ohio who is available to provide on-site technical assistance to practices. TransformMED has provided webinars and technical assistance regarding data collection and pilot practices are now collecting metrics data for their first quarterly data submission in October.

Pilot sites participated in a second statewide learning collaborative meeting on September 7 in Columbus. The meeting included a practice panel in which seven practices shared highlights of the progress that they have made through the transformation process. Other topics addressed included improvement plans, preparing for PCMH recognition, risk stratification, care management, care coordination, and payment reform. Additionally, all practices had an opportunity to share "bright spots" from their transformation journey.

As of August 30, eleven pilot sites had achieved PCMH recognition through NCQA, two have received Joint Commission accreditation, and one has AAAHC accreditation. All sites are working towards some type of PCMH accreditation or recognition.

A great deal of transformational work has been completed by the mid-point of the project, with much more to come in the second year. For a complete list of participating pilot sites, please visit the [ODH web site](#).



## OPCPCC 2013 Fall Conference

The OPCPCC Coordinating Council is planning a conference that will be held at The Fawcett Center in Columbus on Friday, November 8, 2013 at 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Topics that will be included in the conference will be:

- Keynote: PCMH Cost and Quality Results and the Triple Aim, presented by Marci Nielsen, CEO of the national Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative
- Ohio's State Innovation Model design plan
- Comprehensive Primary Care initiative – Southwest Ohio update
- Choosing Wisely: Important conversations with patients to ensure the right care is delivered at the right time
- OPCPCC Learning Center breakout sessions

The conference will provide participants with a vision for health transformation and the spread of PCMH in Ohio, as well as opportunities for networking and involvement in improving primary care in Ohio. Participation is limited to the first 200 who preregister and there is a \$20 registration fee + \$1.49 processing fee, which includes the cost of lunch. Register now at <https://opcpc2013.eventbrite.com>. A detailed agenda is available on the OPCPCC web site.

*NEOMED HPAC Program... continued from page 2*

specifically tailored to addressing issues that affect them and their communities," said Gina Weisblat, Ph.D., director for education for service, NEOMED. "The program ties to the University's mission of training, creating a pipeline and supporting the need to develop primary care health professionals with a focus on reaching and supporting traditionally underserved communities."

To learn more about the program or start an HPAC in your community, contact Dr. Weisblat at [gweisblat@neomed.edu](mailto:gweisblat@neomed.edu).

# STEADI Tool Kit to Screen Older Patients for Fall Risk

By Cameron McNamee, Injury Policy Specialist with Violence and Injury Prevention Program, Ohio Department of Health



On September 22, 2013, Ohio observes National Falls Prevention Awareness Day (NFPAD). NFPAD presents a wonderful opportunity to educate health care providers on how they can reduce their patients' risk of falling.

As you may be aware, falls are particularly harmful to older adults. Falls and fall-related injury seriously affect older adults' quality of life and present a substantial burden to Ohio's health-care system. They are often the difference between independence and institutionalization for an older adult. The following data provide clear justification of the need for fall prevention efforts:

- Falls are the leading cause of injury-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths for Ohioans age 65 and older.
- On average in Ohio, an older adult falls every 2 minutes resulting in a fall-related emergency department visit every 8 minutes, two fall-related hospitalizations per hour and 3 fatal falls per day.
- From 2000 to 2011, Ohioans aged 65 and older experienced a 163 percent increase in the number of fatal falls.

Health care providers play a critical role in the prevention of falls. Integration of fall screenings into your practice can help identify patients at-risk for a fall. By identifying these patients, clinicians can address risk factors such as lower body weakness, difficulties with gait and balance, postural hypotension, medication use, vision problems and home hazards. By addressing these risk factors or referring patients to community programs or specialists who can, health care providers can significantly reduce their patients' chances of falling and suffering serious injuries like hip fractures.

To help identify patients at-risk for a fall, the Ohio Department of Health is promoting the use of the CDC's STEADI (Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries) Tool Kit. STEADI is a provider resource based on a simple algorithm adapted from the American and British Geriatric Societies' Clinical Practice Guideline. It includes basic information about falls, case studies, conversation starters, and standardized gait and balance assessment tests. In addition, there are educational handouts about fall prevention specifically designed for patients and their friends and family.

Copies of the complete STEADI Tool Kit are available from the Ohio Department of Health and can be requested by visiting: <http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/vipp/falls/STEADI.aspx>. The STEADI materials are also available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/Falls/steadi/index.html>.



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and responses indicate they want to see more expansive exchange.

William Wulf, MD, who serves on the OPCPCC, chairs the Metric Learning Center for the collaborative, and sits on the Board of Directors for the Ohio Health Information Partnership, would like to see that 60 percent number go down. "The ability of primary care physicians to electronically share clinical information with facilities and specialists will surely improve the quality of care we can provide for our patients," Dr. Wulf says.

Physicians say tracking patient quality measures and sending care reminders to patients top the list of electronic health record features that PCMH practices find important to support patient-centered care. They say the chronic disease they focus on the most is diabetes care. Most want to provide a patient portal but 60 percent don't have these portals in place.

The majority of respondents were family physicians in practices with less than 10 primary care providers on staff, serve populations of less than 25,000, and are seeking certification or recognition as patient-centered medical homes. Input came from 34 of Ohio's 88 counties.

The Ohio Health Information Partnership assisted with the survey distribution and analysis since CEO Dan Paoletti chairs the HIT Learning Center. With the advent of the

CliniSync health information exchange managed by The Partnership, the study concludes that more robust exchange will continue to occur within the coming year.

The HIT Learning Center will discuss the study's findings in-depth at a breakout session during the OPCPCC's Fall Conference on November 8, 2013. To view the report, visit the [OPCPCC Learning Center web page](#).

## OPCPCC Membership

The Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (OPCPCC) invites you to formalize your membership in OPCPCC. Check out the [OPCPCC website](#) to see the strong list of supporters. **Membership in OPCPCC** is free and benefits include:

- Conferences and networking opportunities
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Ohio PCMH Weekly updates
- Discount code for 20% discount on NCQA application fees

Please complete the [on-line membership form](#), to ensure that you will receive updates about OPCPCC and PCMH activities in Ohio. Please call 614-644-9756 with any questions regarding membership in OPCPCC.

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

<b>Sun, Sept 22</b>	National Falls Prevention Awareness Day
<b>Tue, Sept 24 at 11 AM</b>	OPCPCC Patient Engagement Learning Center call
<b>Oct 7 – 11</b>	National Primary Care Week
<b>Thur, Oct 10</b>	Curriculum Workshop for graduate nursing programs
<b>Thur, Oct 10</b>	Corps Community Day
<b>Tue, Oct 15 at 2 PM</b>	OPCPCC Communications and Education Learning Center call
<b>Wed, Oct 23 at 10 AM</b>	PCMH Education Advisory Group meeting
<b>Fri, Nov 8</b>	OPCPCC Fall 2013 Conference
<b>Tue, Nov 19</b>	National Rural Health Day
<b>Nov 21-22</b>	Ohio Rural Health Conference

If you have ideas or would like to contribute an article for an upcoming newsletter, please send your ideas [PCMH@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:PCMH@odh.ohio.gov) or call Amy Bashforth at (614)644-9756.