Transitional Care: A Focal Point for Health Care Reform

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Transitional Care (TC)

Transitional care – range of time limited services and environments designed to ensure health care continuity and avoid preventable poor outcomes among at risk populations as they move from one level of care to another, among multiple providers and/or across settings.

Acute Care Episode: Context for Transitional Care

Adapted from the National Quality Forum committee on Measurement Framework: Evaluating Efficiency across Episodes of Care

The Case for Transitional Care

- High rates of medical errors
- Serious unmet needs
- Poor satisfaction with care
- High rates of preventable readmissions
- Tremendous human and cost burden

Quality Cost Transitional Care Model (TCM)

Screening
Engaging Elder/Caregiver
Coordinating Care
Managing Symptoms
Assuring Continuity
Educating/Promoting Self-Management
Maintaining Relationship
Collaborating

Unique Features

Care is delivered and coordinated
...by same advanced practice nurse
...across settings
...7 days per week
...using evidence-based protocol
...with focus on long term outcomes
**Findings from Randomized Clinical Trials**

Funding: National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institute on Aging (1990-2010)

**Barriers to Adoption**

- Organization of current system of care
- Lack of quality and financial incentives
- Culture of care

**Translating TCM into Practice**

Penn research team formed partnerships with Aetna Corporation and Kaiser Permanente to test “real world” applications of research-based model of care for high risk elders.

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**Progress to Date & Next Steps**

- TCM proposed for expansion as part of Aetna’s 2009 Strategic Plan
- Kaiser enrollment complete; data collection ongoing
- University of Pennsylvania Health System has adopted TCM; Blue Cross will reimburse for its members

**Next Steps for Penn Team**

- Continue efforts to promote widespread adoption of TCM
- Use findings to promote needed policy changes
- Continue to build the science

**RWJF Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative (INQRI)**

*Purpose:* To generate, disseminate and translate research that describes how nurses contribute to and can improve the quality and safety of patient care.
INQRI Supports Interdisciplinary Teams to:

- Develop + test quality measures
- Establish causal linkages between nursing care and safety, quality and cost outcomes
- Define nursing’s contributions to health systems’ performance

INQRI Program Contacts

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Visit our website at www.INQRI.org

Thank You!