

Care Transitions Education Project

Equipping Nurses to Lead Effective Care Transitions

Project Overview

The Institute of Medicine's 2010 *Future of Nursing* report suggests that nurses at all levels require a new style of leadership to deliver patient-centered care across settings and to contribute as a member of the interdisciplinary care team. All nurses are called upon to more actively engage in the care transition process to ensure patients and their families successfully transfer from one setting of care or one set of providers to another.

Care Transitions Education Project will prepare and empower more nurses to lead effective care transitions. The three year project (2011-2014) is designed to contribute to regional and state efforts focused on reducing avoidable hospital readmissions, improving quality patient-centered care, and reducing overall costs.

The Project's central strategy is to prepare the existing & future nursing workforce by creating a standard care transitions curriculum and educating nurses together across the continuum of care. The project objectives include:

- 1) **Increase competency** of nursing students, novice and experienced nurses to lead and improve patient care transitions
- 2) **Increase mutual respect** among nurses across care settings in order to establish shared accountability for successful patient care outcomes
- 3) **Improve coordination and collaboration** among interdisciplinary health providers and educators
- 4) **Demonstrate nurse-lead quality improvement** in care transition practice and work processes that result in positive change

Activities and Timeline

Project activities will be pursued in collaboration between the Western MA Nursing Collaborative and the Massachusetts Senior Care Foundation, the lead foundation for the project.

- Sept 2011 – Aug 2012 **Develop a standard care transitions curriculum** that focuses on the principles of effective care transitions as established in the MA Strategic Plan for Care Transitions (2010). The competency-based curriculum will incorporate pre-determined knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for effective care transitions as outlined in the MA Nurse of the Future Competencies, Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Competencies, and Multidisciplinary Competencies for the Care of Older Adults. The curriculum will incorporate patient-centered case studies and experiential learning activities.
- Sept 2012 – Dec 2013 **Pilot and evaluate curriculum in service and education settings** to determine effectiveness in reaching project objectives. A train-the-trainer program will be established and required for educators delivering the curriculum. Pilot sites will be selected based on pre-determined criteria. Frontline staff from across care settings will be educated together and in many cases participate through interdisciplinary cross continuum teams.

Nursing students may participate through senior nursing leadership courses, dedicated education units or simulation.

- Jan – Aug 2014 **Disseminate Curriculum Statewide** to established network of organizations involved in care transition efforts and nursing education redesign. An example of such organizations includes the MA Senior Care Association, Home Care Alliance of MA, the MA Association of the Colleges of Nursing, and the Action Coalition for the implementation of the IOM *Future of Nursing* recommendations. The Massachusetts Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors will assist with the dissemination effort and link the project to other statewide care transition efforts. Regional partners will incorporate curriculum into established pre-licensure and continuing education programs.

Connections to Statewide Initiatives

The project's design leverages and complements many statewide initiatives including:

- INTERACT – Interventions to Reduce Acute Care Transfers
- STAAR – STate Action on Avoidable Rehospitalizations
- Care Transitions Forum

Funding

The Care Transitions Education Project is funded in part by Partners Investing in Nursing's Future (PIN), a collaborative grant program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation. The lead local funder is the Mass Senior Care Foundation. Other co-investors include the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation, United Way of Pioneer Valley, Home Care Alliance of MA, Commonwealth Corporation, the Healthcare Workforce Partnership of Western MA, and the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County.

Partners (as of December 2011)

- *Service:* Baystate Health, Berkshire Healthcare Systems, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Commonwealth Care Alliance, Genesis Healthcare/Heritage Hall, Holyoke Health Center, Holyoke Medical Center, Jewish Geriatric Services, Inc, Noble Hospital, Holyoke VNA & Hospice Lifecare, Sisters of Providence Health System, Mass Senior Care Association, Home Care Alliance of MA, MA Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors, VNA and Hospice of Cooley Dickinson
- *Education:* American International College, Elms College, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Westfield State University, Greenfield, Holyoke and Springfield Technical Community Colleges
- *Workforce Development:* Regional Employment Board of Hampden County

For More Information

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