The United States needs a strategic national vision, defined technology standards and significant resources to support the integration of healthcare and social care data in order to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities.

That's among the findings of a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine on how to integrate patients’ social needs into healthcare delivery.

“Interoperability and data sharing between healthcare and social care are hampered by the lack of infrastructure, data standards and modern technology architecture shared between and among organizations,” states the report.

To address the problem, the authors call for the development of a digital infrastructure that is interoperable between healthcare and social care organizations, as well as the resources to finance the integration of healthcare and social care.

“Billions of dollars in federal resources spurred the digitization of healthcare through the widespread adoption of electronic health records and interoperability,” adds the report. “Social care has not benefited from the same resources and policy attention as has the healthcare sector, and it lags far behind in digitization.”
Central Ohio providers continue to be open and transparent with one another about how they perform on specific quality measures with an eye on improving health and healthcare delivery across the region. HCGC is pleased to release our second regional quality report of 2019 with data on nine clinical quality measures from 11 healthcare organizations representing over 140 primary care practice sites that are caring for more than 640,000 patients across Central Ohio. Our Quality Improvement Learning Group (QILG) has hosted quarterly work sessions for practices and quality improvement system leaders to evaluate regional performance, set goals, and align improvement activities at a system and practice level.

Since 2014, the report has been released twice a year, providing benchmarking, trends and important insights to help as practices strive for continuous improvement. Over the years, HCGC has increased the number of practices from just over 80 reporting in 2014, to 159 in the report released earlier this year. The number of quality measures has also increased as a result of the collaborative work of the QILG.

For the first time, the most current report includes social determinant of health (SDOH) data. HCGC is excited to add this important data to our regional quality reporting, as we feel as though it will inform, expand and improve the clinical data we will continue to collect in conjunction with the traditional regional quality report. We have been able to add SDOH data because of our work with the Central Ohio Pathways HUB (the HUB.) Patient level data has been collected on both risks and outcomes that have addressed client needs in real time through the outstanding work of community health workers (CHWs) identifying, meeting with, and serving clients around central Ohio.

Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute Featured Research

Does a Program that Focuses on Lifestyle Changes Reduce Heart Disease Risk Factors?

The risk of heart disease in rural Appalachian Kentucky is among the highest in the country. Risk factors for heart disease
include having high blood pressure, eating unhealthy foods, being overweight, not exercising, smoking, and feeling depressed. Many people here have more than one risk factor. The chance of developing heart disease is higher in this part of the country, in part because many people don’t know much about these risks. They also have limited access to health care.

This study compared two ways to help people reduce their risk of heart disease. All people in the study got referrals to doctors they could see regularly. Half of the people also went to small-group classes taught by trained health workers from the community. The classes focused on healthy choices that people can make to reduce their risk for heart disease. The research team wanted to learn whether providing these classes was better at helping people reduce their risk for heart disease than only referring people to a doctor.

Read More on PCORI's Website

Upcoming Events from Our Partners

Ohio Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative Presents

2019 OPCPCC Annual Conference

This eighth annual OPCPCC conference will address the importance of assessing social determinants of health (SDoH) as part of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model of care to achieve equitable healthcare for all Ohioans. HCGC’s own Jenelle Hoseus will moderate a panel titled: “SDOH and Primary Care - Practical Applications and Resources”

Details & Registration

Building Bridges of Opportunity Presents

Dismantling the Community-to-Prison Pipeline

A unique one-day learning intensive dedicated to understanding the root causes of the community-to-prison pipeline and developing strategic solutions to dismantle it.

Details & Registration

Buckeye Health Plan Presents

Buckeye's Focus on Social Determinants of Health Community Agency Networking Event
Buckeye wants to collaborate with your agency to address the challenges related to SDo. During each meeting, partners will share their related work and brainstorm on new initiatives to better serve the community.

Details & Registration

The Columbus Medical Association Presents


The CMA has organized a presentation on ‘Single Payer Healthcare: How might it affect you and your patients?’ with details on some of the various options that have been introduced in the broad conversation. The purpose of this panel is not to promote one view or another, but to educate physicians in attendance about the ideas being discussed.

Details & Registration

eHealth Initiative Presents

**Connecting Communities Webinar: HIEs and Social Determinants of Health**

Webinar will feature information on: SDOH data sources and use across organizations, center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) efforts regarding the use of SDOH, the role of health information exchanges (HIEs) with SDOH data, including challenges and solutions.

Details & Registration

Ohio Department of Health’s Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program Presents

**Ohio Tobacco Quit Line Webinar Registration**

Please join Ohio Department of Health’s Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program for a webinar presentation to learn more about the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line

Details & Registration

Articles of Interest
Ohio State’s STEPP helping expectant mothers with addiction

Catalyst for Payment Reform Fall 2019 Webinar Series: Innovative Employers and Their Health Care Purchasing Strategies

NIHCM WEBINAR VIDEO: Addressing Health Disparities in the LGBTQ+ Community

Ohio’s “Tobacco 21” Took Effect October 17; Age to Purchase Tobacco, Vaping Products Now 21

Monthly Meeting Resources

Following each Monthly Meeting and Regional Learning Session, the agenda, speaker information, slide deck and other relevant resources are uploaded to the HCGC website for your reference. View resources.

For a Calendar of Events visit: http://www.hcgc.org/events.html

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