Ohio PCMH Weekly

Ohio PCMH Weekly is a summary of Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) news from around Ohio, as well as a sampling of national PCMH news and educational opportunities. Comments and suggestions can be directed to PCMH@odh.ohio.gov. To become a member of the Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (OPCPCC) and receive Ohio PCMH Weekly, go to http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/medicalhomes/Membership.aspx.

OPCPCC updates

The spring 2015 OPCPCC newsletter is now available on the OPCPCC website. Topics covered in this edition include the OPCPCC Patient Engagement toolbox, the final report on the PCMH Education Pilot Project (H.B. 198) practice transformation, an OPCPCC Learning Center update, and the National Health Services Corp application cycles. As noted in the newsletter, the final report on the practice transformation component of the PCMH Education Pilot Project is now available on the project website. Suggestions for future newsletters can be forwarded to PCMH@odh.ohio.gov.

PCMH News and Articles

**Significant Primary Care, Overall Physician Shortage Predicted by 2025**

America faces a significant physician shortage by 2025, according to a physician workforce projection report released by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) titled *The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections from 2013 to 2025*. According to an AAMC press release, the U.S. could be short between 46,000 and 90,000 physicians overall by that time. The analysis estimates a primary care shortage of 12,500 to 31,100 primary care physicians and a shortfall of 28,200 to 63,700 nonprimary care physicians, most notably among surgical specialists. Read article and report.

**Primary Problems Confront Primary Care**

Too many patients, too few doctors: Is this the foundation for a patient-centered medical home? This article explores solutions, such as the PCMH model of care, interprofessional teams, and involvement of employers. Read article

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RX: The Quiet Revolution
Primary Care Progress has announced the premiere of an important film about primary care. *RX: The Quiet Revolution* is the latest from esteemed filmmaker David Grubin, the son of a general practitioner. In RX, Grubbin takes his camera across the country to uncover a quiet revolution happening in medicine from Maine to Mississippi, Alaska to California. He visits physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who are placing the patient at the center of their practice—transforming the way medical care is delivered while lowering costs. The film shows how a patient-centered philosophy can improve health outcomes and enrich the lives of patients. *Rx: The Quiet Revolution* premieres Thur., April 2, at 9:00-10:30 PM (check local listings) on PBS.

Regular primary care visits linked to better control of diabetes
Consistent primary care utilization is associated with blood pressure and glycemic control among American Indian/Alaska native adults with diabetes, according to a recently published study. “Coordinated patient-centered primary care can improve health outcomes for patients with [diabetes mellitus], and access to primary care providers can reduce emergency department use, hospitalizations, morbidity, mortality and cost,” Matthew D. Berman, PhD, of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska, and colleagues wrote. Read article

Obesity Is Hurting the U.S. Economy in Surprising Ways
As a panel of scientists considers ways to help Americans trim down, unpublished research shows medical expenses linked to being extremely overweight have skyrocketed. Experts say the damage is augmented by reduced productivity, wider gender and income inequality and even higher transportation costs. Read article

Loneliness Linked to Chronic Illness
Among those 70 and older who struggle with a chronic illness, loneliness is often a complicating factor, a new study finds. Research published in *Health Psychology* finds the onset of chronic illness often results in loneliness—even for those who have had a steady partner for 50 years or more. This may be the first research of its kind, says study first author Meaghan Barlow of Concordia University in Montreal. Many studies examine whether lonely people are more likely to get sick, but "none of them asked the opposite question: 'Do sick people get lonely?'" Read article

Congratulations to Integrated Medical Group in Beavercreek who received Level 3 PCMH Recognition from NCQA. Integrated Medical Group participated in the PCMH Education Pilot Project (H.B. 198) and also participates in the CMS Comprehensive Primary Care initiative.

Do you have some PCMH news to share? We would like to highlight your achievements in this section of Ohio PCMH Weekly. Please send your submissions to PCMH@odh.ohio.gov.

Health Experts Don’t Always Sanitize Their Hands, Data Show
An analysis of hospital data finds doctors and nurses are not following guidelines on washing their hands before and after they come into contact with patients. Listen to story