

## Partners in Practice for Healthy Communities Learning and Action Network

### Improving Cardiac Health Program

Heart disease and stroke are the first and fourth leading cause of death, respectively in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To improve cardiac health and reduce cardiac health care disparities, the Atlantic Quality Innovation Network (AQIN), is recruiting physician practices to participate in the Partners in Practice for Health Communities Learning and Action Network (LAN), part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Quality Innovation Network (QIN)–Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Initiative.

By leveraging our relationships with national organizations and other stakeholders, the AQIN South Carolina team will convene medical experts, community partners, and physician practices in the Partners in Practice for Healthy Communities LAN to implement and spread evidence-based practices to support the Million Hearts initiative and prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

#### Goals

Participating practices must be able to report the following, four clinical quality measures on the ABCS of cardiovascular health:

- A Aspirin Therapy** – Increase the percentage of patients with ischemic vascular disease who have documented use of aspirin (PQRS #204, NQF #0068).
- B Blood Pressure Control** – Increase the percentage of patients who had a diagnosis of hypertension and whose blood pressure was adequately controlled (PQRS #236, NQF #0018).
- C Cholesterol Management** – Increase the percentage of Fasting Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL-C) Test Performed and Risk-Stratified Fasting LDL (PQRS #316).
- S Smoking/Tobacco Cessation** – Increase the percentage of patients screened and who receive smoking cessation counseling (PQRS #226, NQF #0028).

## Put it in Perspective



**Heart disease is the #1 leading cause of death in the United States**

Annually, heart disease and stroke cost more than **\$312.6 billion** in health care expenditures and lost productivity.



Roughly the population of San Antonio

Number of heart attacks and strokes each year in the U.S.



Approximate weekly attendance at Disney World™  
Number of Americans that die from heart disease every year



Number of passengers in four loaded 747 jets  
People that die EVERY DAY from cardiovascular diseases

Heart disease kills roughly the same number of people in the U.S. each year as cancer, lower respiratory diseases (including pneumonia) and accidents combined.

**HEART DISEASE** = cancer  
lower respiratory diseases  
accidents

## Benefits for Participating Practices

- Assistance with data analysis and performance improvement activities on the Million Hearts' ABCS interventions to prevent heart attacks and strokes.
- Assistance in Physician's Quality Reporting System (PQRS) reporting and improvement on performance of publically reportable data to avoid penalties.
- Assistance in aligning processes to avoid penalties, receive incentive payments, and achieve recognition in pay-for-performance and quality improvement initiatives, including PQRS and Meaningful Use
- Opportunities to earn *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™
- Assistance with using EHRs for care coordination, monitoring, patient engagement, spread of best practices, and identification in healthcare disparities
- Quality of care improvement with emphasis on cardiovascular disease
- Access to resources and tools that will assist providers improve the processes within their practice.
- Exposure to state and national subject matter experts

## About Atlantic Quality Innovation Network (AQIN)

The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME) is a member of the AQIN, a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO), offering health care quality improvement learning opportunities, technical assistance, and resources across New York, South Carolina, and the District of Columbia. CCME serves as the QIN-QIO for South Carolina.

AQIN's Partners in Practice for Healthy Communities LAN is for physician practices that focuses on improving cardiovascular health, improving prevention coordination through meaningful use of health information technology and CMS quality reporting and incentive programs to improve physician practices' quality improvement efforts.

## Interested Providers

If you are interested in participating in the Partners in Practice for Healthy Communities LAN or if you have any questions, please contact Sarah Stein, MPH, at [sarah.stein@HCQIS.org](mailto:sarah.stein@HCQIS.org) or **803.212.7521**.