

## Partners in Practice for Healthy Communities

### Program Overview

The Atlantic Quality Innovation Network (AQIN) invites you to join other physician practices across the state to improve patient-centered care, promote effective prevention and treatment of chronic diseases, and make care more affordable.

Our goal with the Partners in Practice for Healthy Communities Program, part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Quality Innovation Network (QIN)–Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Initiative, is to improve patient care and support your practice as it prepares for CMS pay-for-performance initiatives. By partnering with the AQIN South Carolina team, you will have access to dedicated, experienced consultants who can provide educational programming, best practices, and intervention tools including approaches to promote patient and family engagement to improve patient health and self-efficacy.

We understand that providers want to improve patient care but time and resources are always at a premium and each provider/provider office may want to focus on a different area of health care management.

### Four Ways to Participate

#### 1. Improving Cardiac Health and Reducing Cardiac Health Care Disparities

Participating practices will support the Million Hearts™ campaign to prevent heart attacks and strokes with a focus on improving the ABCS measures:

- **A**spiring therapy
- **B**lood pressure control
- **C**holesterol management
- **S**moking screening and cessation

#### 2. Improving Diabetic Health and Reducing Diabetic Health Care Disparities

This area will support the Everyone with Diabetes Counts program and will focus on improving the following measures for diabetic patients:

- HbA1c
- Lipids
- Blood pressure
- Weight control

Along with the goal of improving measures, providers will be working with patients to provide diabetic self-management education (DSME).

### 3. Improving Prevention Coordination through Health Information Technology (HIT)

Physicians will focus on improving the rates of immunizations and cancer screening by working on the following measures through Meaningful Use (MU):

- Flu immunization
- Pneumonia immunization
- Breast cancer screening
- Colon cancer screening

### 4. Quality Improvement through Quality Reporting and Value-based Payment

Providers will be reporting measures via the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and investigating the use of their Quality and Resource Use Report (QRUR) as it applies to the value-based modifier (VM) program. The measures that are submitted can be the above measures or other measure of the provider's choosing. The focus will be to report PQRS electronically but other ways of reporting PQRS will be supported.

### Interested in Participating?

If you are interested in participating in the Partners in Practice for Healthy Communities Program or if you have any questions, please contact **Lisa Epting**, at [lepting@thecarolinascenter.org](mailto:lepting@thecarolinascenter.org).

### 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.