Providing the Foundation for Creating a Specialty ACO
Providence Health System

Providence Health & Services is a not-for-profit Catholic health care system that includes 27 hospitals, approximately 35 non-acute facilities and other health, supportive housing and educational services in the Northwest and California.

CHALLENGE

- As part of a larger initiative to overhaul cardiology care, demonstrate the feasibility of identifying variation in cardiology care at PH&S
- Establish utilization patterns and cost implications of clinical practice change
- Create a plan for transforming the PH&S cardiology program into an accountable care organization (ACO), with a focus on quality improvement and cost reduction

SOLUTION

- Implemented CPV™ data collection among a group of PH&S cardiologists and primary care physicians, analyzing care for congestive heart failure (CHF), coronary heart disease (CHD) and atrial fibrillation (AF)
- QURE analyzed utilization data from PH&S's Epic system, modeling the impact of quality improvements (as indicated from the CPV™ vignettes) on utilization and outcomes

RESULTS

- QURE found that the CPV™ vignettes were well-received by the participating physicians, and the majority asked to receive feedback on their performance
- The vignette scores revealed high variation in practice, particularly in CHD and AF
  - Opportunities to improve diagnostic accuracy, therapeutic consistency and reduce unnecessary testing were identified
- QURE found that reducing unnecessary care in cardiology by 15%-25% would yield savings of between $50-$83 per patient
- QURE, jointly with PH&S, developed a framework to transform the cardiology program at PH&S into an ACO, built on the principles of a shared savings plan between the physicians and the relevant payers, with quality benchmarks based on CPV™ scores and patient satisfaction surveys
- Click *here* for more information on the project as presented at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Forum on Quality Improvement

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