

Primary care within the University of Pennsylvania Health System: Assessment of Current Status

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Health care leaders agree that high value primary care is essential to improve the health of patient populations while controlling costs. Participation in a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services demonstration, Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+), provides a unique opportunity for the University of Pennsylvania Health System (UPHS) to provide leadership in addressing this national priority. Currently, baseline information against which innovations in primary care can be tested and performance improvement can be measured is not available. The proposed study is designed to address this important knowledge gap. Guided by a Stakeholder Advisory Group comprised of representative patients, family caregivers and clinical leaders within UPHS's Primary Care Service Line (PCSL), a multidisciplinary team based in Penn Nursing's Center for Transitions and Health proposes to: 1) describe the health status of adults attributed to 29 UPHS primary care practices and the use of acute care health resources by these patients, both overall and within subpopulations; and 2) describe care management staffing and strategies at these practices, and explore their potential relationships to: a) selected CPC+ quality metrics; b) patients' and family caregivers' perceptions; and c) acute care resource use. A mixed methods study design will be employed that includes retrospective analyses of existing data and prospective analyses of survey and focus group data. Study findings will provide the foundation essential for a large scale application to NIH or Foundations to support longitudinal evaluation of changes in health status and acute resource use of the patient population served by UPHS's PCSL.