



# ANNOUNCING H3: HEALTHY HEARTS IN THE HEARTLAND

**The H3 Consortium invites independent clinics in the Midwest to implement and evaluate quality improvement strategies for cardiovascular care**

We are proud to announce that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has awarded a \$15 million grant to establish a multidisciplinary consortium in the Midwest focused on quality improvement and the prevention of strokes and heart attacks. The consortium, known as Healthy Hearts in the Heartland (H3), will support 300 independent clinics and healthcare centers in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin as they adopt new strategies to improve cardiovascular health in the population. As part of a national set of similar research projects called EvidenceNOW, H3 will identify best practices and investigate the effectiveness of various quality improvement tools and tactics.

Registration is beginning now. Please contact your local H3 partner with names of practices who might be interested in receiving more information.



YOUR LOCAL CONTACT: [H3@metastar.com](mailto:H3@metastar.com)

## *General eligibility*

The H3 consortium will select independent providers in SE Wisconsin, NE Illinois and Northern Indiana (including Indianapolis). Clinics are eligible to participate if they:

- Have ≤ 10 providers
- Are focused on adult primary care
- Have certified electronic health record system
- Do not currently receive significant quality improvement support

## *H3 highlights*

Practices receive coaching and dashboards to provide point-of-care support for Million Hearts measures (aspirin therapy, blood pressure control, cholesterol management and smoking cessation). Half will also receive tools and strategies to manage their patient population.

Education is designed to align with leading payer models and incentive programs.

Practices will be reimbursed for time used to extract data.

## **H3 PARTNERS**

Northwestern University, CHITREC, Purdue University, PurdueREC, Northern Illinois University, IL-HITREC, local and State Departments of Public Health, American Medical Association, Alliance of Chicago, University of Chicago, Telligen and MetaStar

## Coaching in the H3 consortium

H3 has leveraged 10 leading organizations in the region—including 4 health IT regional extension centers, 2 quality improvement organizations and the American Medical Association—to work with primary care practices on implementing evidence-based strategies to address heart health issues. Coaching will support physicians at their clinics as they:

- *Optimize electronic health record (EHR) clinical decision support functionality.* Studies have shown increases in aspirin prescribing between 25.8-54.3% through the use of clinical reminders at the point of care.
- *Implement and modify office-based protocols.* Coaching will incorporate best practices advocated by the Million Hearts campaign.
- *Engage in community efforts to encourage team-based approaches.* For example, studies have shown that providing care in collaboration with pharmacists has greatly reduced systolic blood pressure in hypertensive patients.
- *Collect and analyze clinical quality measures.* This approach aligns with many pay-for-performance models and helps providers to target patient populations.



## Alignment with leading payment and quality programs

Education, coaching, webinars, and other tools are chosen with quality improvement and financial incentive programs in mind. Our experienced facilitators and quality improvement experts are equipped to support physicians who are participating or thinking of participating in a wide range of popular provider programs.

| Aligned program, initiative, financial incentive or resource | ABCS Quality Measures included<br>(Aspirin regimen<br>Blood pressure control,<br>cholesterol management,<br>smoking cessation) | Support available through the H3 Consortium |
|--|--|---|
| Meaningful Use (CQMs, Clinical Decision Support)             | All  | X   |
| Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS)                    | All  | X   |
| Value-Based Payment Modifier Program                         | All  | X   |
| Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (proposed for 2017)     | All  | X   |
| Medicare Accountable Care Organizations (ACO)                | All  | X   |
| CMS-directed Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs)        | All  | X   |
| Chronic Care Management (CPT Code 99490)                     | All  | X   |
| Health Effectiveness Data & Information Set (HEDIS)          | All  | X   |
| Million Hearts   | All  | X   |
| CDC State-Based Tobacco Control Programs                     | Smoking only   | X   |
| Regional private insurer quality improvement programs        | All  | X   |