Moving Evidence Into Practice: An Update From AHRQ

David Meyers
Chief Medical Officer

May 9, 2017
Association of American Medical Colleges
• Overview of AHRQ

• Discussion of the Learning Healthcare System

• Review of AHRQ funding opportunities

• Your thoughts and questions
AHRQ’s Role

AHRQ’s **guiding principle**
Improve the safety and quality of America’s health care delivery system

**Mission**
Produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and work within HHS and with other partners to make sure the evidence is understood and used.
What AHRQ Does

• AHRQ **invests in research** to understand how to make health care safer and improve quality

• AHRQ works with frontline care professionals, **creating materials to teach and train** them to apply evidence to improve care

• AHRQ **generates measures and data** used to track and improve performance and evaluate progress of the U.S. health system
If you only remember three things about AHRQ...

- Keeps patients safe
- Helps clinicians improve quality
- Provides and analyzes data to track trends in health care systems
Keeping Patients Safe: Demonstrated Improvements in Patient Safety 2010 - 2015

- 21% Reduction in Hospital-Acquired Conditions Since 2010
- 3 Million Fewer Adverse Events
- 125,000 Lives Saved
- $28 Billion In Savings

Source: National Scorecard on Rates of Hospital-Acquired Conditions 2010-2015: Interim Data from National Efforts to Make Health Care Safer.

Patient Safety Tools and Resources
New Focus in Patient Safety

- Improving Diagnostic Safety
  - 2016 AHRQ Research Summit
  - Funding Opportunities:
    - Understanding and Improving Diagnostic Safety in Ambulatory Care: Incidence and Contributing Factors (R01)
    - Understanding and Improving Diagnostic Safety in Ambulatory Care: Strategies and Interventions (R18)
Quality Improvement

- **Increasing Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in Rural Primary Care Practices**
  - Demonstration and Dissemination Grants
    - Colorado
    - North Carolina
    - Oklahoma
    - Pennsylvania
  - Identifying and overcoming barriers to the provision of MAT in primary care and developing practical tools, policies, and training materials to spread results
Quality Improvement

- **EvidenceNOW**: Advancing Heart Health in Primary Care
  - Largest primary care research investment in AHRQ history
  - Dual focus on improving care delivery and studying how to support primary care practices in expanding capacity to apply evidence and improve quality
  - 7 cooperatives in 12 states working with >1500 practices
  - Local and independent national evaluation
Data and Analysis: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey

• Most complete source of data on the cost and use of health care and health insurance coverage in the United States
• National survey of 33,000 people
• Conducted annually since 1996
• Three major components:
  ➢ **Household**: Asks people about health use, expenditures, insurance
  ➢ **Medical Provider**: Collects information from providers of medical care
  ➢ **Insurance**: Asks employers about the insurance they offer (e.g., offer rates, premium costs)
NEW Supplemental MEPS Medical Organization Survey (MOS)

Characteristics of Practices Used as Usual Source of Care Providers during 2015—Results from the MEPS Medical Organizations Survey (April 2017)

- About a quarter of persons who visited their usual source of care (USC) practice in 2015 used a practice with only one physician. Practices of 4-10 physicians were most common.
- A slight majority of persons with a USC provider and who visited them during 2015 had a USC that was an independent practice (54.7 percent).
- A substantial majority of practices visited as USC practices in 2015 included a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant (72.1 percent).
Data and Analysis:
Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project

- Largest collection of all-payer, encounter-level hospital care data in the United States.
- Group of databases capture utilization information from hospitals and emergency departments from 47 states and District of Columbia.
- Captures data from all payers, including Medicare, Medicaid, commercial payers.
- Includes information on 97 percent of all U.S. hospital discharges.
Giving Patients Tools To Make Better Choices

- AHRQ is working to incorporate patient narratives in standardized measures of quality

- Giving patients a voice on the area they are best qualified to judge
  - More effectively convey patients’ experience of care
Learning Health Care Systems: Building Capacity to Improve Safety and Quality
What is a Learning Health Care System?

- Systematically **gathers** and **creates** evidence
- Applies the most promising evidence-based practices to improve care
Consequences of Not Learning

- Patients don’t benefit from advances in medical research
- Wide variations in care, even within systems, are the norm
- Health care disparities persist
The Time is Right

• Explosion of research findings
• Increasing availability of health IT and advanced analytics
• Greater links between health care organizations
• Emergence of learning health system exemplars
AHRQ’s Unique Role

AHRQ helps health care delivery organizations build the capacity to move knowledge into practice.

Practice

Knowledge

Data
Early Investments Pay Off

**edmforum**

- Initiative to link health care delivery organizations that used their own data to answer clinical, delivery questions
- Electronic Data Methods Forum advanced data collection, analysis methods, and dissemination

**IMPROVE CARE NOW**

- Established the world’s largest pediatric inflammatory bowel disease registry
- AHRQ funding helped harness big data to provide clinicians with information to improve outcomes
- Remission rates increased from 55% in 2007 to 78% in 2015
AHRQ will train a new generation of health services researchers

- Establish competencies for learning health systems researchers training program
- Embed trainees in systems at interface of research, informatics, and clinical operations
- Expand organizations’ abilities to generate evidence from local clinical data
Clinical decision support (CDS) initiative helps care teams apply evidence to practice

- Building a community of researchers, clinicians, professional societies and others to explore and advance patient-centered CDS
- Developing “CDS Connect”, an online repository of CDS artifacts
- Creating prototype infrastructure for sharing CDS across different health care settings and technologies
Enthusiasm for Supporting the Development of Learning Health Care Systems

• In January, AHRQ issued a Request for Information Regarding Learning Health Care Systems

• Purpose:
  ► To understand current challenges organizations are facing and solutions they are implementing as they seek to become learning health care systems
  ► To identify opportunities for AHRQ to assist them in this work

• Many supportive responses from health care delivery systems, physician groups, professional associations, researchers
Possible Future Directions

• New investments in research on helping health care organizations move knowledge into practice
• Establishing a national center for best practices for bridging the human and IT aspects of learning health care systems
• Developing tools for organizations to adopt learning health care systems practices
• Expanding work on data analytics

We hope you will partner with us!
AHRQ Grant Mechanisms and Continuum of Research

Training/Career Development
- K08, K01, K02 – Research Career Dev. and Mentorship
- R36 – Health Services Research Dissertations

Health Services Research
- R03 – Small Research Grants
- R01 – Large Research Grants
- R18 – Large Demonstration/Dissemination Grants

Conferences
- R13 – Conference Grants
In FY2016 AHRQ invested ~$185M in research grants:

- ~$50M in ‘Investigator initiated’ health services research grants
- ~$60M in patient safety and health IT focused grants
- ~75M in dissemination of PCOR findings and PCOR training
Current Opportunities

• Standing HSR opportunities
  ► R01: AHRQ Health Services Research Projects (R01)
  ► R18: AHRQ Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Grants (R18)
  ► R03: AHRQ Small Research Grant Program (R03)
Current Opportunities

- Standing HSR
- Patient Safety opportunities
  - Healthcare-Associated infection and Abx Resistance
    - Large Research Projects for Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections (R01)
    - Large Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects for Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections (R18)
    - Large Research Projects for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB) (R01)
    - Large Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB) (R18)
• Standing HSR

• Patient Safety opportunities
  ► General Patient Safety:
    o [AHRQ Health Services Research Projects: Making Health Care Safer in Ambulatory Care Settings and Long Term Care Facilities (R01)]
    o [Advancing Patient Safety Implementation through Safe Medication Use Research (R18)]
    o [Advances in Patient Safety through Simulation Research (R18)]
    o [Understanding and Improving Diagnostic Safety in Ambulatory Care: Incidence and Contributing Factors (R01)]
    o [Understanding and Improving Diagnostic Safety in Ambulatory Care: Strategies and Interventions (R18)]
Current Opportunities

• Standing HSR
• Patient Safety
• Health IT opportunities
  ► Embedded focus in general AHRQ R01, R18, and R03
  ► Health Information Technology (IT) to Improve Health Care Quality and Outcomes (R21)
  ► NEW: Utilizing Health Information Technology to Scale and Spread Successful Practice Models Using Patient-reported Outcomes (R18)
  ► NEW: Implementation and Evaluation of New Health Information Technology (IT) Strategies for Collecting and Using Patient-Reported Outcome (PRO) Measures (U18)
  ► Stay tuned for FOAs on Clinical Decision Support
Current Opportunities

- Standing HSR
- Patient Safety
- Health IT
- Other opportunities
  - Developing Measures of Shared Decision Making (R01)
Current Opportunities

- Standing HSR
- Patient Safety
- Health IT
- Other opportunities
- SENs:
  - Innovative Research in Primary Care
  - Optimizing Care for People Living with Multiple Chronic Conditions through the Development of Enhanced Care Planning
  - Research that Uses Shared Decision Making as a Tool to Improve the Quality of Care for Low Income and Racial and Ethnic Minority Patients
  - Innovative Methods Research to Increase the Utility of Systematic Reviews
Training & Career Development
Grant Opportunities

Pre-Doctoral
- Health Services Research Dissertation Awards (R36)
- Institutional Predoctoral Research Training (T32)

Post-Doctoral
- Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards (F32)
- Institutional Postdoctoral Research Training (T32)

Career Development
- Mentored Clinical Scientist Career Development Awards (K08)
- Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Awards (K01)
http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/index.html

Funding & Grants

Policies and procedures, grant announcements, contract solicitations, special initiatives, calls for partners, small business innovation research, and research dissertations, training, and career development.

Funding Opportunity Announcements

Grant announcements from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for supporting research to improve the quality, effectiveness, accessibility, and cost effectiveness of health care.

Research Policies

Policies and procedures, agency requests, and notices

GRANTS ON-LINE DATABASE (GOLD)

Questions and Dialogue
Thank you

Visit us at:

AHRQ.gov