IQLink is a product of the AAMC Integrating Quality Initiative that is leading and supporting member institutions in achieving safe, high-quality, high-value health care that is driven by continuous quality improvement implemented throughout interprofessional education and clinical practice. IQLink provides access to news and updates, recent publications, funding announcements, and professional development opportunities. To learn more about the AAMC’s Integrating Quality Initiative, visit aamc.org/iq.

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IQ NEWS AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Call for New Members – Serve with AAMC’s IQ Steering Committee!
Applications are now being accepted through July 12 for new members of the Integrating Quality (IQ) Steering Committee. Current committee membership includes clinical and educational leaders representing themselves from AAMC teaching hospitals and medical schools. The membership meets the broad focus of the IQ mission by including members with expertise in quality and patient safety that represent a variety of institutions and perspectives. The committee serves in an advisory role to AAMC and supports activities such as the annual Integrating Quality Conference, identifying best practices, and emerging efforts such as creating consensus around a set of competencies for quality improvement and patient safety. A term is two years and members may serve up to three consecutive terms. To apply, please send a letter of interest, your CV, a brief narrative biography, and a professional headshot to integratingquality@aamc.org by Wednesday, July 12.

News from the 2017 Integrating Quality Meeting
AAMC was pleased to welcome all who participated in the 9th annual Integrating Quality Meeting! In case you missed them, check out all the tweets from this year’s event. In a highly interactive learning format coupled with robust networking opportunities, the meeting offered participants from dozens of academic health systems, medical and health professions schools, with a forum to learn and discuss strategies for Achieving the Quadruple Aim.

Keynote presenter Susan Moffatt-Bruce, MD, PhD, MBA kicked off the event by sharing current challenges and potential solutions to leveraging value-based care transformation strategies to improve outcomes, remain patient focused, and assure physician engagement and resilience. She noted that the linkages and continuous cycle of improvement are stronger than ever between research in care settings and hospital operations, and it’s what unites us all in working to integrate quality.
Robert M. Wachter, MD – with clarity, insight, humor, and compassion – examined the ways in which information technology continues to transform health care settings, the people who do the work, and their relationships with each other and with patients. He called on the academic medicine community to re-double our efforts to continue building our skills, culture, and governance to reimagine the work noting that, “It is as much about teamwork, as it is about quality improvement, or IT systems. We need new workflows, personnel, and leadership and we need to retain the sense of optimism, because it will get better.”

Rounding out the engaging plenary sessions — students, residents, faculty, and institutional leaders participated in a series of interactive workshops and poster sessions that addressed topics such as: building resilience through mindfulness and impacting patient safety; successful lean implementation; aligning UME and GME goals and competencies to address social determinants of health; and preparing for the future of MACRA.

Access organizational tools and strategies – MedEdPORTAL iCollaborative

It’s not too early to plan for next year! Mark your calendar for the 10th Annual Integrating Quality Conference, June 7-8, 2018 near Washington, DC. A call for abstracts will open during the fall and registration will open next spring.

RESOURCES AND REPORTS

Lowering Costs and Decreasing Wait Times via eConsults
An eConsult simplifies the process of seeking input from specialists thereby allowing primary care physicians to ask specialists specific clinical questions when they aren’t quite sure how to treat a problem that might not require a face-to-face visit with a specialist. Starting in 2014, the AAMC, with a grant from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, has worked with five academic health systems to pilot the eConsult platform, known as Project CORE (Coordinating Optimal Referral Experiences). Since then, an additional seven health systems have implemented the model, and the AAMC anticipates adding a third cohort this year. By enhancing communication and coordination between PCPs and specialists, Project CORE has reduced demand for specialist visits for more routine problems, freeing up time for specialists to see patients with more serious problems.

In the project’s first 18 months, the more than 8,000 eConsults at the five pilot sites avoided an estimated 3,600 specialist referrals. “As we face increasing demand alongside the shift to risk-based reimbursement models, a distinct advantage of this model is that it improves access, promotes high-quality care at lower costs, and increases satisfaction for providers and patients,” said Scott Shipman, MD, MPH, AAMC director of primary care affairs and workforce analysis and the project’s principal investigator. Read More.

New Community Health Needs Assessment Resources for Teaching Hospitals
Not-for-profit teaching hospitals are required to conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) every three years, engaging communities, public health experts, and clinical leaders to identify and address the most important health needs in their communities. Resources demonstrating how AAMC member teaching hospitals are tackling social determinants of health—such as poverty, lack of transportation, and underemployment—as part of their CHNA-related interventions are now available, including a selection of videos as part of the 2017 Health Equity Research Snapshot. The AAMC also welcomes contributions to a developing collection of evidence-based community health improvement practices. Read More.

Empowering You to Deliver High-Value Care to Patients – New Resources
Just launched during this month’s AAMC Integrating Quality Meeting, Discovering Value-Based Health Care is a set of interactive, online learning modules released by Dell Medical School that teach the foundations of value unlike any other educational tool available. The first three modules, bundled as “Introduction to Value-Based Health Care,” are available free to all learners, part of the school’s mission to revolutionize how people get and stay healthy. This first-of-its-kind curriculum was developed in part due to a grant from the Episcopal Health Foundation.

“We want to introduce students and clinicians to value-based health care,” said Chris Moriates, MD, co-creator of the tool and assistant dean for healthcare value at Dell Med. “But the broader goal is to help build health care leaders at all levels who are as comfortable taking on transformational health challenges as they are caring for patients. In the interest of that, we hope these learning modules will be adopted at medical schools, residency programs and other health professions-focused educational venues across the country.”

Unlike other offerings aimed at practicing physicians, it
is focused on giving learners a strong foundation in value-based health care that can be leveraged throughout their careers. It is adaptive and interactive — taking advantage of the latest in instructional technology — making learning flexible, personalized and data-driven. Lastly, it can be completed by independent learners — no faculty champion required. Learn more and on social media use #DiscoveringVBHC.

JAMA Study Finds Lower Mortality Rates at U.S. Teaching Hospitals
A new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) examined the differences in mortality rates at U.S. hospitals. Findings show that mortality rates were significantly lower at 250 major teaching hospitals compared with 894 minor teaching and 3,339 nonteaching hospitals. The authors concluded that Medicare beneficiaries who were hospitalized for common conditions at major teaching hospitals had lower mortality rates when compared with those hospitalized at minor teaching and nonteaching hospitals. Read More.
MEETINGS, WEBINARS, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Three-Part Webinar Series – TeamSTEPPS Journey
U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
July 12; August 9; and September 13, 2017. 1-2 pm ET
Learn More.

The Business Case for Patient Safety – Complimentary Webcast
IHI/ National Patient Safety Foundation
July 25, 2017, 1-2 pm ET
Learn More.

Quality and Innovation Summit – Alliance for CE in the Health Professions
An immersive, action oriented learning and networking experience that will focus on ways to apply learning and behavioral strategies to the practice transformations needed to improved patient care.
September 25-27, 2017
Park City, UT
Learn More.

Learn, Serve, Lead 2017: The AAMC Annual Meeting
November 3-7, 2017
Boston, MA
Learn More and Register Now

IN THE LITERATURE


Academic Medicine - Access the latest from the quality and patient safety articles collection.

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Have a news item, article or event to share with IQLink? Contact IntegratingQuality@aamc.org