EXPANDING SCOPE OF PRACTICE THROUGH INNOVATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

In 2014, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) launched Project CORE to support academic medical centers (AMCs) in providing high-value care to patients. Through EMR-based tools, known as eConsults and enhanced referrals, Project CORE aims to improve communication and coordination between primary care physicians and specialists, resulting in a better care experience for both patients and providers. In 2017, the University of Colorado joined the CORE community of over 20 AMCs implementing the model and improving patient care.

"Project CORE stands to bridge care between primary care & specialty providers and find new efficiencies in care & practice…"
–Dr. Duane Pearson, Rheumatology Co-Lead

A key element of Project CORE is the co-management conference—a series of case-based conferences that provide a constructive forum for primary care providers and specialists to discuss co-management and common clinical issues. This unique opportunity allows for primary care physicians and specialists to meet in-person and discuss cases and patient management, resulting in better clinical knowledge and management of care. To raise awareness and impact of this unique educational conference, the University of Colorado CORE team has used participation in co-management conferences, and more broadly participation in the CORE program, as an opportunity for physicians to receive MOC (maintenance of certification) credit. To receive this yearly MOC credit, the physician requirements include active involvement in the QI effort (Project CORE) with participation in a minimum of 3 of the 4 activities listed in Figure 1. Once approved, family medicine PCPs will receive 20 points, internal medicine PCPs will receive 30 points, and PAs earn 20 points with the NCCPA. By incorporating MOC credit into the CORE program, the Colorado team is increasing provider awareness and uptake of the CORE model.

Figure 1. MOC Credit Requirements

To receive MOC credit, a physician must be actively involved with Project CORE in 3 of the 4 activities:

- Contribution to the initial project design, including but not limited to creating and reviewing template designs, providing feedback on workflow, and helping to identify cases for co-management conferences

- Active involvement in sending eConsults

- Involvement in the analysis of data collection and/or analysis to assess the impact of the interventions, making appropriate course corrections in the improvement effort

- Participation in meetings, such as co-management conferences, to continue the process for improvement. Documentation of meeting attendance must be available upon request; meeting minutes are encouraged, but not required

| eConsults launch in April 2018 | 80% of PCPs highly satisfied* | Over 80 eConsults sent in 1st quarter (2 specialties) | Co-management conference in Aug 2018 | 8 specialties live over 6 months |

PCP survey administered 3 months after go-live (20 PCPs participated)