Introduction to Practice-Based Based Research Networks

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What is a PBRN?

A group of clinicians principally devoted to the care of patients and who are committed to improving the quality of patient care through clinical research.

Study participation is optional.

Engages physicians on the frontlines of patient care:
- Develops research questions related to problems seen in the office
- Gathers data
- Interprets and implements findings
How is practice-based research different than traditional research

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<tr>
<th>BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH</th>
<th>PBRN RESEARCH</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diseases are studied in highly selected patients</td>
<td>Studies patients where most health care is delivered</td>
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<td>Isolates single diseases or disease processes</td>
<td>Comorbidities are common and included</td>
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<td>Often excludes context of patients’ lives</td>
<td>Psychosocial factors are often included</td>
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Guidelines for a PBRN by AHRQ

At least 5 practices and/or 15 clinicians
A mission statement
A Network Director
A Network Coordinator
A steering committee
An organizational structure independent of any one study
Processes of communication
Infrastructure of the Network

**Network Director**
- MD, DO or PhD appointed by the School of Medicine
- Accountable for the management of the network
- Liaison between the School of Medicine and the steering committee

**Network Coordinator**
- Runs the day-to-day operations of the Network
- Assists with development of projects and grant applications, supervises research support staff
- Creates and distributes information to members by either newsletters (print or online) and helps organize meetings

**Steering Committee**
- Consists of Network Director, 5-7 community clinicians, and possibly a community representative
- Helps develop and review policies and procedures
- Selects research projects and helps implement the projects
- Helps recruit new members to the Network
The Role of PBRNs in Translational Research

Identify problems in daily practice that create gaps between recommended care and actual care

Demonstrate whether treatments with proven efficacy are effective and sustainable in real world practices

Provide an environment for testing health system improvements in primary care
The Research Process

1. Identify knowledge gap
2. Search for existing information
3. Focus the study question
4. Design the study
5. Collect data
6. Analyze and interpret results
7. Implement findings
7 questions to get started:

1. What is the research question?
2. What is already known, and how can this help you refine the question?
3. Who would be the participants for the study?
4. What would be the study measure?
5. How would you collect data?
6. How can feasibility considerations (money, effort, time) help you to refine your question and research plan?
7. Why is the study worth doing?
Clinical Research Ideas from the Steering Committee

COPD Diagnosis in the Primary Care Office

Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship

Studying care coordination from hospital discharge to nursing home

Establishing treatment protocols in nursing homes to reduce ED visits/hospitalizations for non-urgent conditions (e.g. non-life threatening lab work abnormalities)

Improving palliative care for nursing home patients

Identifying community resources (services, programs) for clinicians

Studying medication reconciliation at hospital discharge

Studying patient use of quick-acting nitroglycerine prior to calling ambulance for chest pain

Studying quick-acting nitroglycerine use in patients with chest pain (do patients have NTG prescribed and/or do they carry it with them)