Our mission
The mission of the Southern Illinois Practice Based Research Network is to improve the health and well-being of patients in Southern Illinois by applying scientific methods to questions important to primary care clinicians, their patients and their communities.

Our vision
Our vision is to initially include internists, pediatricians, and family physicians from the twenty southernmost counties of Illinois in the research network. The focus of research would be any clinical question that would relate to patient care in rural areas.
Q&A

Q: What is a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN)?
A: A group of ambulatory care practices and clinicians devoted principally to the care of patients but who are interested in improving the quality of patient care through clinical research.

Q: Why participate in the PBRN?
A: In a survey published in JABFM, clinicians participated in a PBRN for the following reasons:
- Opportunity to enact quality improvement (78%)
- Contribution to clinical knowledge (75%)
- Intellectual stimulation (65%)
- Method to gain CME credits or Maintenance of Certification (49%)

Q: What types of research can be conducted in PBRNs?
A: Any kind! But the majority of the research falls into the following categories:
- Doctor-patient relationships
- Quality improvement and best practices
- “Translational effectiveness research”
  - Identify problems in daily practice that create gaps between recommended care and actual care
  - Demonstrate whether treatments are effective and sustainable in real world practice
- Patient health behavior change
  - How to increase patient compliance to recommended treatment
  - What prevention strategies work in practice
- Practice-enhancement interventions
- EHR-based research

Q: What can the PBRN help with?
A: All aspects of the research process:
- Framing the research question
- Identifying and securing funding sources
- Recruiting practices, patients
- Human subjects (IRB) training and paperwork
- IT support, data gathering

Q: What will it cost me?
A: It will cost a minimum of clinician or staff time to provide the intervention or gather the data and undergo human subjects protection training.

Q: If I sign up, am I obligated to participate in each study?
A: No! You decide whether you or the practice will participate in any available study. Participation in other network studies (such as an AAP or AAFP network study) will not affect participation in this network.

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