

Practice Based Quality Improvement Activities

State: Illinois

Lead Agency: UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)

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Brief description of quality improvement activities:
(You can note here if this is based on the learning collaborative or EPIC model)

The Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) is currently providing one-hour presentations on the Illinois Medical Home model to primary care practices and residency programs throughout the state. DSCC's trained facilitators work with primary care practices and residency programs in developing medical home quality improvement teams with parent/professional partnerships. Using the Center for Medical Home Improvement model, practices complete the Medical Home Index and solicit family input utilizing the Family Medical Home Index to establish a baseline assessment upon which to build improvements in health care delivery. Facilitators meet with each team on a monthly basis to assess and refine selected quality improvement activities. Annually, each practice completes the Medical Home Index/Family Medical Home Index to re-evaluate their effectiveness in improving quality health care for children with special needs.

The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP), in collaboration with the University of Illinois - Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC), has been awarded a four-year \$1,000,000 federal grant through the Division of Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The project, entitled Illinois Medical Home Project (IMHP), supports development of community-based medical homes for children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) by informing primary care providers about the medical home model; providing access to quality improvement (QI) processes involving partnerships with parents, linkages to community resources, and reimbursement; facilitating QI Teams at practices; and sponsoring Leadership Forums to develop statewide action plans. The project period is from July 2004 through June 2008. Charles Onufer, MD, Director of the Division of Specialized Care for Children, serves as Principal Investigator.

How is this activity supported? (resources, tools, funding, staff, facilitation, etc.)

DSCC has one full-time staff person to coordinate and implement the Medical Home project throughout Illinois and three staff provide additional project support. The project coordinator and 2 others serve as facilitators with quality improvement teams - meeting monthly with each team, organizing agendas and meeting minutes, locating resource information and tools, and serving to keep the team's momentum moving forward. The DSCC Family Liaison works with parents serving on quality improvement teams to assist them in acclimating to the parent-professional partnership. To initiate the quality improvement process, the results of the Medical Home Index and Family Medical Home Index, developed by the Center for Medical Home Improvement (CMHI), are compiled into a summary report from which the team can begin identifying areas for improvement. The CMHI Medical Home Improvement kit is used, in combination with other resources, to assist teams in identifying improvement activities and developing processes and tools for improving health care delivery for children with special needs.