

Physician Integrated Network (PIN)

Plan for Assiniboine Medical Clinic Inc.

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Clinic/Patient Profile

- Assiniboine Medical Clinic Inc. (AMCI) is located at 633 Lodge Avenue. It is adjacent to the Grace Hospital.
- The clinic presently has 24 physicians. There are 17 family physicians, three general surgeons, two urologists, one internist, one gastroenterologist and one neurologist.
- We have a full service laboratory on the premises, x-ray , EKG, spirometry, vision testing and audio testing facilities.
- We have used Clinicare for our computerized medical records since 2001.
- Our laboratory information systems are integrated with our computerized medical records. Laboratory results are automatically dropped into the patients charts for review.
- Although we have patients from all over the province of Manitoba, the primary areas we serve are the St. James/Assiniboia and Assiniboine South areas of the Winnipeg Health Region.
- In 2006 AMCI had a total of 120,124 patient visits.



Focus Areas Selected

The areas we selected are diabetes and hypertension.

Diabetes was selected due to:

1. It was identified as one of the health issues in the area we provide service.
2. The ramifications of untreated diabetes will lead to costly and extensive medical complications.
3. It is an opportunity to obtain accurate data on the number of patients within our clinic with the condition.

Hypertension was selected due to:

1. It dovetails nicely with the work we will perform on diabetes.
2. Hypertension treatment within our community area was reported low, which is unusual given that our area has an older population. It will serve as a check on the quality of care we provide.



Practice Changes

- Schedule quarterly visits for patients on the specific health concern identified, i.e. diabetes or hypertension.
- Hire dietician to provide education to patients with regards to diet and weight loss.
- Hire nurse to provide diabetes/hypertension education.
- Consider other health care professionals, i.e. podiatrist, counsellors.
- Implement changes to our IT infrastructure.



Addressing Objectives

- Involvement of other health care practitioners will free up time for the family physician to provide more care to his/her patients.
- Currently capturing data in a text format. Extraction and manipulation of data is onerous. Changes to IT infrastructure will provide better measurement tools for physicians and clinic.
- We will develop benchmarks. Given that physicians will be measured to these, the quality of primary care should improve.



Implementing the Plan

- Implementing changes to our IT infrastructure will be key. This will include the design, development and implementation of flow sheets.
- Educate physicians as to provincial standards for diabetic and hypertension management.
- Obtaining physician “buy-in” to the changes (simplicity is key).



Communication and Change Management Plan

- Information sessions will be conducted with physicians and staff.
- Information packages will be developed for patients diagnosed with diabetes and hypertension informing them of practice changes at AMCI, i.e. introduction of other health care providers.
- Quarterly updates will be shared amongst stakeholders.
- Issue of compliance, physicians vs. patients.