

**Project Title:** An Electronic Personal Health Record for Mental Health Consumers  
**Principal Investigator:** Druss, Benjamin, M.D., M.P.H.  
**Organization:** Emory University  
**Mechanism:** RFA: HS08-002: Ambulatory Safety and Quality Program: Improving Management of Individuals with Complex Healthcare Needs through Health IT (MCP)  
**Grant Number:** R18 HS 017829  
**Project Period:** 09/08 – 09/11  
**AHRQ Funding Amount:** \$1,199,379  
**Summary Status as of:** December 2008

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**Strategic Goal:** Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to support patient-centered care, the coordination of care across transitions in care settings, and the use of electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of care.

**Business Goal:** Implementation and Use

**Summary:** Dr. Druss and his team launched their project in late September 2008. The project proposes to adapt an existing personal health record (PHR) to better meet the needs of a population that typically receives health care in the public sector. Specifically, they will modify a PHR in order to better knit together the typically fragmented care that patients with severe mental illness in the public sector health system receive. Overall, the focus of their work is to improve the quality and coordination of care among patients with serious mental illness and, while there are good PHR systems for use in the general population, this grant will allow the team to test whether they can modify a PHR to meet the needs and improve care among severely mentally ill patients using the public health system for care. They are having the developer modify the Shared Care Plan, a PHR developed by a consortium of provider organizations in Whatcom County, Washington. The software code for the PHR is available at no charge to any community or organization.

### Specific Aims

- Develop a mental health personal health record (MH-PHR). **(Ongoing)**
- Implement a randomized trial of the MH-PHR. **(Upcoming)**
- Disseminate results. **(Upcoming)**

**2008 Activities:** Dr. Druss hired all personnel for the study, including the nurse case specialist, project director, and research interviewer. He and his staff traveled to Seattle to be trained in the Shared Care Plan product, and the project manager is in close contact with the programmers of the Shared Care Plan to discuss modifications and electronic enhancements. The Shared Care Plan staff has expressed great interest in this modification to their product, as it presents quite a departure from typical use. Dr. Druss and his team completed the patient and provider focus groups and have incorporated their suggestions into the design of the MH-PHR. The patient and provider focus groups have highlighted different issues for the developers: the patients are excited about the opportunity to have a little more control over their care, while the providers are concerned about the trustworthiness of the information.

**Preliminary Impact and Findings:** There are no findings at this time because they are still developing the intervention.

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**Selected Outputs**

None Available.

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**Grantee's Most Recent Self-Reported Status:** Project spending is somewhat under spent by 5-20 percent due to delays with project adaptation during the first quarter of the project. The project expects to be on track with spending in the future.

**Milestones:** Progress is mostly on track.

**Budget:** Somewhat under spent, approximately 5 to 20 percent.