

Research Centers in Primary Care Practice-Based Research and Learning

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| Organization: | Medical University of South Carolina |
| Mechanism: | RFA-HS-12-002: Research Centers in Primary Care Practice-Based Research and Learning |
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Summary: A strong primary health care system is needed to improve the nation's well-being. Although research is integral to strengthening care in this setting, it is relatively under-developed. The Practice Partner Research Network (PPRNet) is a national practice-based research network (PBRN) that was founded in 1995. This project is intended to further development of the PPRNet infrastructure and enhance its ability to conduct research to improve the primary health care system. PPRNet is led by researchers at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and is currently comprised of 226 member practices with 1,179 primary care providers in 43 States. All PPRNet practices use the Practice Partner electronic health record from McKesson Physician Practice Solutions. PPRNet, member practices, and McKesson collaborate to maintain a longitudinal clinical database that facilitates their ability to design and conduct research efficiently.

The goals of the project are to expand the PPRNet research team to include investigators who research care for the underserved and patient activation; improve team readiness to respond to a broad scope of rapid-cycle funding announcements; and further enhance infrastructure and activities for disseminating and implementing research findings. Expansion of the research team will be pursued by leveraging existing investigators' relationships with faculty across MUSC colleges, centers, and departments. Dissemination and implementation will be enhanced through clinical performance reports, network meetings, site visits to practices, and Web 2.0 applications, including Webinars and social media tools.

Specific Aims:

- Expand team of investigators across the MUSC campus, with emphasis on investigators who represent under-developed areas of current expertise, specifically research on care for the underserved and patient activation. **(Ongoing)**
- Improve readiness to respond to a broad scope of rapid-cycle funding announcements planned by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for the Research Centers through this expanded based of investigators. **(Ongoing)**
- Further enhance infrastructure and activities related to disseminating and implementing research findings in member practices. **(Ongoing)**

2012 Activities: The PPRNet research team identified MUSC researchers with a range of backgrounds including minority health and health disparities, primary care genomics, and patient risk assessment to join the team. They have also enhanced their clinical performance reports by adding new medicine safety measures, extensively revising the patient registries, and making other minor changes. The team hosts monthly Webinars to help disseminate research findings and updates the PPRNet Web page, Facebook fan page, Twitter account, and e-mail list-serve on a regular basis. In addition, members of the PPRNet research team attended the McKesson Practice Solutions User Group meeting in November. Dr. Andrea Wessell, a co-investigator, made a presentation and PPRNet hosted an exhibit to encourage participation from new members.

Preliminary Impact and Findings: This project has no findings to date.

Target Population: General

Strategic Goal: Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to improve health care decisionmaking through the use of integrated data and knowledge management.

Business Goal: Implementation and Use
