Advancing Performance Measurement Methods

Funded Project Agreement with the Center for Analytics and Reporting (CAR)

Investigators:
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Background:
The Center for Analytics and Reporting (CAR) is the Program Office responsible for using VHA’s comprehensive electronic health record and other data systems to track health system performance and provide clinicians and managers with analytic and information tools that support improved patient outcomes. It includes the Performance Measurement Team and the Inpatient Evaluation Center (IPEC) that were formerly part of the Office of Quality and Safety and are now part of the Office of Analytics and Business Intelligence (OABI), a unit that reports to the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Health for Informatics and Analytics. CAR program managers have had ongoing, productive partnerships with CCMR dating back to the late 1990s. These collaborations have yielded advances in modeling, risk profiling, and performance measurement for a variety of conditions, including inpatient mortality, hospital complications, and the management of cardiovascular risk factors in outpatient settings.

Current work with CAR:
CCMR investigators and staff are currently working with CAR, through a funded Project Agreement, to address key operational priorities focused on risk modeling and performance measurement. The development and validation of new performance measures and analytic approaches will promote more patient-centered decision making in VHA. This project agreement builds upon the expertise of many CCMR investigators.

CAR and CCMR have selected the following 5 priority projects:
1. Develop measures of colorectal cancer screening appropriateness based on patient predicted life expectancy. (Lead: Sameer Saini)
2. Field and evaluate fully electronic clinical action measures for lipid and blood pressure management. (Leads: Eve Kerr and Tim Hofer)
3. Use cardiovascular risk modeling and risk-based performance measures to guide appropriate CV interventions in the Veteran population. (Leads: Rod Hayward and Jeremy Sussman)
4. Develop other measures of appropriateness and overuse based on scientific criteria. (Example: Overuse of cardiac stress tests prior to low-risk surgeries, Overuse of medications to achieve an A1c <7.5% in adults over 65 years of age) (Lead: Eve Kerr)
5. Reconstitute and support a Methods Advisory Council for IPEC predictive modeling and reporting functions, to include hospital and acute care mortality, readmissions, length of stay, and complications. (Lead: Jack Iwashyna and Tim Hofer)

Funding period:
This project agreement is subject to annual renewal based on CAR budget availability, but is intended to continue a total of 3 years (through 3/31/2016), after which it may be renegotiated.

Partner: Center for Analytics and Reporting

CCMR is proud of its long-standing partnership with CAR.
Partnerships like these afford one of the best mechanisms for aligning research and organizational priorities and ensuring a clear path toward implementation.