

# Improving patient safety through better care transitions

Vizient's Medication Management for Transitions of Care Collaborative

## 1.3 million

Annual emergency department (ED) visits are caused by adverse drug events, with 350,000 hospitalizations as a result, as estimated by the Centers for Disease Control.<sup>1</sup>

### Vizient Performance Improvement Collaboratives program

Vizient<sup>®</sup> brings together interested members to collaborate on focused performance improvement initiatives. We offer health care collaboratives and benchmarking studies as opportunities to network with like-minded members, access subject matter experts and work on common issues vital to the delivery of health care. We offer collaborative projects, webinars and archived web resources that combine expert-led knowledge with leading practice insights to help you realize top-tier performance in quality, safety and cost effectiveness.

### Opportunity

Ineffective patient transitions after hospitalization, whether being discharged to home or to a post-acute care facility, has been identified as a factor that drives higher readmissions and poor patient outcomes, especially in certain patient populations. In many cases, it is an adverse drug event (ADE) that lands patients back into the hospital after discharge. By adding pharmacists to the care transitions team, health care organizations can identify and prevent potential ADEs before they occur, improving patient safety and eliminating costly readmissions that often occur result from ADEs.

### Overview

During the Medication Management for Transitions of Care Collaborative, 32 organizations worked together to improve transitions of care by involving or increasing the involvement of pharmacy team members to implement or build upon existing medication management (MM) programs.

Goals of the collaborative included:

- Increase knowledge of MM programs that have demonstrated positive outcomes
- Identify ways to bill and capture revenue for MM services
- Identify and implement MM strategies that will reduce ADE and readmissions

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Adverse Drug Events in Adults. [https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult\\_adversedrugsafety.html](https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult_adversedrugsafety.html). Accessed on August 18, 2018.

## How to get started

Access to the Performance Improvement Collaboratives program is limited to participants of the Vizient Member Networks.

### Enroll in a project

For more information about upcoming Performance Improvement Collaboratives, participants can contact [picollaboratives@vizientinc.com](mailto:picollaboratives@vizientinc.com) or their network director.

### Learn from past projects

Participants can learn from past projects by:

- Reading knowledge transfer final reports
- Viewing the recordings of knowledge transfer webinars

## Key learnings

Key learnings from the collaborative include:

- Medication errors are occurring: go find them. One participant was able to justify additional staff by showing the savings that would result from an effective MM program.
- Transitions of care programs require resources. If new staff is not available, look into adjusting staffing responsibilities or utilizing students, residents and technicians.
- Don't let the electronic medical record (EMR) hold you back. Many organizations faced barriers with EMR design but found resources or workarounds.

## Overall results

Participants in this collaborative were able to avoid 1,591 ADE-related readmissions and nearly \$6 million in estimated readmissions-related costs.



To learn more, please contact [picollaboratives@vizientinc.com](mailto:picollaboratives@vizientinc.com).

As the nation's largest member-driven health care performance improvement company, Vizient provides network-powered insights in the critical areas of clinical, operational, and supply chain performance and empowers members to deliver exceptional, cost-effective care.