CMS BUILDS FRAMEWORK FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CMS ignites Primary Care practices to offer behavioral health support for Medicare beneficiaries

Why?

Because nearly 1 in 5 Americans live with Any Mental Illness* and only 42.6% received mental health treatment in the past year.*


Depression and Alcohol Misuse are among the most common mental health issues in Primary Care patients yet less than half are screened.

The Approach

Beginning in 2014, CMS invested in an initiative through the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program to mobilize Primary Care practices across the nation in increasing depression and alcohol misuse screenings. CMS asked, Can screening for depression and alcohol misuse be as routine as taking a patient’s blood pressure?

The Results!

1,205,513 Patients Screened for Depression
680,019 Patients Screened for Alcohol Misuse
4,936 Practices Now Screening

*Represents the number of practices participating and the number of patients screened in participating practices from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

Key Learnings

- Establish processes for routine screening for every patient
- Integrate screening into EHRs
- Use simple screening tools
- Conduct motivational interviewing to achieve success

Tools Developed

- Patient Experience Videos
- Audit Screen Tools
- Fact Sheets
- Posters
- Handouts
- Motivational Interviewing Resources

Learn more about this work here:
https://qioprogram.org/behavioral-health-bite-sized-learnings

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