Purposes of Tracking and Monitoring

This document tells you about four different reasons you might want to track and monitor.

Planning for visits and refills

- Ahead of visits or processing refills, identify patient care gaps
- Communicate patient care gaps with staff to trigger action
- Ensure data on current patient status is available to the care team (e.g., MED, last PEG score, etc.)

Monitoring the patient population to improve care quality

- Regularly review patient data to check for care gaps and high risk patients
- Create a plan to close care gaps and attend to high risk patients

Looking for clinical variation

- Regularly review patient data to check for clinical variation
- Identify if a clinician has a high risk practice or is practicing outside of the clinic's policies (e.g., many patients with high MEDs) and provide one-on-one consultation with the clinician to offer assistance
- Review reports at regular medical staff meetings to facilitate conversations about how to handle complex patients
- Inform clinicians of their prescribing patterns to create peer pressure as a motivator to adhere to agreed-upon practices

Monitor overall success

- Determine what data are feasible to monitor. Prioritize which of these feasible data you want to use to monitor success.
- Make a plan for regularly monitoring and adjusting based on these data (e.g., query your EHR to produce a report of patient MED values by provider once per quarter).
- Understand your baseline metrics.
- Regularly share monitoring reports with clinicians and staff to help identify areas for improvement and to create buy-in.