

CPI PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

April 2017



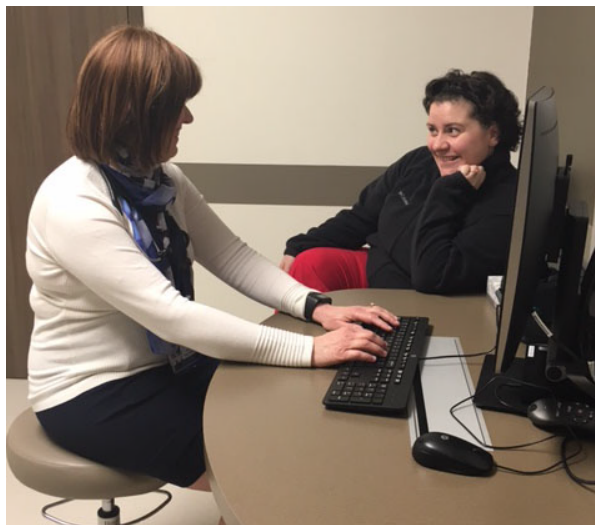
Depression Care Pathway led by Dr. Patricia Read-Williams and Kathy Mertens

In July 2016, clinicians from a variety of disciplines embarked on a journey to design an evidence-based best practice Depression Care Pathway under the leadership of Dr. Patricia Read-Williams, Clinic Chief of UW Neighborhood Issaquah Clinic and UW Clinical Assistant Professor and Co-leader Kathy Mertens, MN, MPH, RN, Assistant Administrator of Ambulatory Nursing Practice, HMC. Over the course of two Rapid Process Improvement Workshops, the Depression Care Pathway multidisciplinary work group developed a standardized care pathway for treating patients with a diagnosis of depression in the primary care setting.

“This care pathway provides a consistent method for taking care of depression patients in every clinic no matter where they go in our system,” said Dr. Read-Williams.

Standardization of depression treatment is just one of many pathways under development to deliver consistent, high quality and high value services.

“The work group did an excellent job providing up to date research on different depression treatment pathways of other large medical entities. This gave the group an opportunity to design a pathway that worked within the current resources of the system, as well as follow evidence based medicine,” said Dr. Joel Carey, family medicine provider, UW Neighborhood Kent Des Moines.



Dr. Patricia Read-Williams(left) reviewing work on the care pathway with Kari Taylor(right), a medical assistant at UW Issaquah Clinic. Photo by Katie Egan.

Pilots were initiated at 7 participating clinics this month where they will provide feedback to IT on the Epic tools in preparation for spreading the pathway across the UW Medicine system. After a 3-month assessment of initial data collected, the plan is to begin implementation of the depression care pathway to the remaining UW Medicine primary care clinics in July. Progress will be measured by tracking provider and patient satisfaction surveys as well as utilization of PHQ-2, PHQ-9, SmartSets, and recommended antidepressants. The following clinics are pilot sites for this care pathway:

- Harborview Adult Medicine Clinic
- UWNC Ravenna
- UWNC Kent Des Moines
- UWNC Issaquah
- UWMC Women’s HealthCare Clinic
- Hall Health
- Northwest Hospital Primary Care Lake Forest Park

The work UW Medicine clinicians are doing to standardize our healthcare delivery processes is a key strategy in care transformation, and with the implementation of each new pathway we are accelerating our work to improve the value we bring to our patients.