

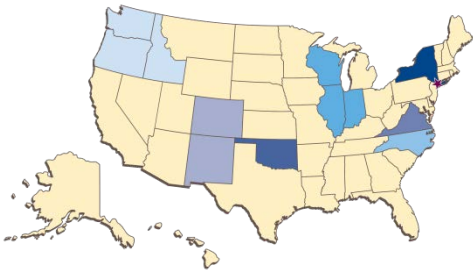
EvidenceNOW: Advancing Heart Health in Primary Care

EvidenceNOW is a large, national grant initiative dedicated to helping small- and medium-sized primary care practices across the country use the latest evidence to improve the heart health of millions of Americans. EvidenceNOW is built on the recognition that primary care is the foundation of the Nation's health care system. Accelerating the uptake and use of evidence by primary care practices has the potential to improve care and health outcomes for millions of people.

Goals

The goals of EvidenceNOW are ambitious and include--

- Helping primary care practices implement evidence to improve the quality of heart health care
- Helping practices identify ways to build their capacity to receive and incorporate other patient-centered outcomes research findings in the future
- Studying how external quality improvement support helps primary care practices improve the way they work and the health of their patients
- Building and disseminating a blueprint of what works to improve primary care



Where is EvidenceNOW Taking Place?

EvidenceNOW created 7 regional cooperatives working with more than 1,500 primary care practices across 12 States, with 5,000 primary care providers serving 8 million Americans.

The 7 cooperatives have developed unique interventions that are tailored to their region and the populations they serve and are designed to

improve the delivery of cardiovascular care, including the ABCS: **A**spirin use by high-risk individuals, **B**lood pressure control, **C**holesterol management, and **S**moking cessation.

Each intervention combines five types of quality improvement services:

- On-site practice facilitation and coaching
- Data feedback and benchmarking
- Health information technology support
- Shared learning collaboratives or peer-to-peer learning
- Expert consultation



How Will EvidenceNOW Measure Success?

At the local level, each EvidenceNOW cooperative will evaluate its own interventions for improving the delivery of the ABCS of heart health and the capacity of practices. Our goal is that each of these practices will meet the national target of 70 percent of all patients adopting the ABCS of heart disease prevention. These regional efforts will provide a rich and multifaceted understanding of how to help primary care practices build capacity for ongoing learning and improvement.

In addition, the 7 regional cooperatives are gathering data that are common and harmonized across projects. This means that at the national level, the independent evaluation team has the ability to examine and compare the effectiveness of interventions and to determine which interventions are most effective in improving the implementation of new medical evidence in which contexts and under what circumstances. The national evaluation team also is studying a number of other targeted questions that will provide useful information about the infrastructure and supports that are needed at the practice, regional, and national levels to successfully translate evidence into better care.

How EvidenceNOW Promotes Learning Health System Capabilities

EvidenceNOW is helping small- to medium-sized primary care practices identify and use the latest available evidence. It is helping them to learn how to extract data from their electronic health records and use it for quality improvement. Finally, it is helping practices learn how to take external and internal knowledge and implement it in practice on an ongoing basis.

For More Information

www.ahrq.gov/EvidenceNOW