The Role of PBRNs in Practice Improvement and Transformation

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Need for Practice Redesign

• Time of huge changes for primary care practices
• Patient Centered Medical Home
• Meaningful use
• Increasing focus on quality measurement and reporting, quality improvement
Practice Assistance Models

- Practice coaching
- Practice Enhancement Assistants (PEAs)
  - Jim Mold, others
- Multi-practice collaboratives
- One goal is to transform the PBRN into a learning community
Research Aspects

• Can sometimes structure as group randomized clinical trials of improvement methodologies
• More commonly, rigorous evaluation of multi-practice quality improvement efforts
• Mixed methods (qualitative plus quantitative), case studies, etc
• New methods emerging
• Increasing acceptance and interest
Funding Sources

- Translational research study sections within NIH
- CTSA?
- AHRQ
- Foundations
- Extension service authorized in Affordable Care Act
Summary

• Support for practice redesign is a huge area of need for our practices.
• PBRNs have the relationships with practices to help structure this support.
• There are lots of research questions around this area.
• There is funding to support this work.
• What’s not to like?
Thank You!

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