

The WREN Review

A publication of the Wisconsin Research & Education Network

Fall 2010

WREN to participate in CKD care improvement project

This fall, the Oklahoma Physicians Resource/Research Network (OK-PRN), led by Jim Mold, MD, received funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to implement a quality improvement project that uses evidence based strategies to help primary care practices in four states, including Wisconsin, implement evidence based guidelines for chronic kidney disease (CKD).



receive performance feedback, educational materials, decision support tools, a WREN Regional Research Coordinator to help clinicians and staff with implementation of new processes of care, and health information technology support. During the second phase of the project, these practices will work with WREN

WREN will work with OKPRN and practice-based research networks (PBRN) in Minnesota and California to assess the impact of two interventions: practice facilitators and local learning collaboratives. WREN will investigate how well these practice interventions improve uptake of and adherence to CKD guidelines developed by the National Kidney Foundation. WREN already uses a practice facilitator model by assigning a WREN Regional Research Coordinator (RRC) to each of its full support clinics. For this project, the WREN RRCs will work directly with participating practices to provide resources to improve adherence to CKD guidelines.

WREN will recruit eight practices to participate in the first phase of the project. These eight practices will

to identify and recruit two additional practices that are also interested in improving care for CKD patients. The three practices will work together in monthly local learning collaborative meetings for six months.

This is an exciting opportunity for practices to receive assistance from WREN to improve CKD care. Also, it will allow WREN to assess the impact of using WREN Regional Research Coordinators as a resource for practices working to improve patient care, while gaining experience with the local learning collaborative model which other PBRNs have used successfully to encourage practice improvement.

If your practice is interested in participating in this new WREN project, please contact Paul Smith at 608-265-4477 or paul.smith@famned.wisc.edu for more information.

In this issue

- Nasal Irrigation Pilot Study....2
- Health Literacy Summit to be held in April.....2
- Fall Forum Highlights.....4
- Data Collection Begins on SAFE-C Study.....4
- WREN/WAFP Primary Care Survey Group Update.....5
- Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW).....5



Wisconsin Primary Care Research and QI Forum 2010



Study investigates nasal irrigation and prevention of the common cold

Nasal irrigation (NI) with 0.9% saline is a popular prevention and treatment therapy for a variety of upper respiratory



David Rabago, MD

conditions including chronic sinus symptoms and allergic rhinitis. NI is a popular complementary

and alternative medicine therapy that has been used to prevent and relieve upper respiratory symptoms for centuries.

Some studies have presented results that suggest that NI is effective as a preventative measure for the common cold; however these studies had a limited design, non-validated outcome measures and small sample size, all of which challenge the generalizability of the results.

Acute viral respiratory infection (such as the common cold) is humanity's highest incidence affliction and a leading cause of morbidity and mortality. No preventive

therapy has been shown to be uniformly effective. Dr. David Rabago, UW Department of Family Medicine, Principle Investigator, has studied NI and is proposing to test the use of NI as a preventative measure for the common cold.

Dr. Rabago's study will evaluate the feasibility of daily self-reported cold symptoms in the treatment (NI) vs. control (non-NI) groups for two months. WREN will assist with data collection for this project.

The appropriateness and feasibility of pilot study methods will be assessed, including recruitment strategies at the study site, subject interactions, outcome assessment completion by subjects and follow-up procedures. Positive clinical findings in this study would be the first evidence that NI is effective for prevention of URI using a robust outcome measure (Jackson Criteria).

If successful, Dr. Rabago plans to follow this pilot study with a larger study with hundreds of subjects who will be followed for 6 months.

WREN to co-host Health Literacy Summit in April

WREN is partnering with Health Literacy Wisconsin, a division of Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., to bring the 4th Biennial Wisconsin Health Literacy Summit to Madison on April 12-13, 2011.

This event brings together nationally important voices in the fields of health care, adult literacy, and health care policy to address health literacy from an interdisciplinary perspective.

A preconference workshop on health materials development will be held on April 10-11. The workshop will be led by Audrey Riffenburgh, President of Plain Language Works, and nationally recognized expert on the development of easy-to-read health materials.

The summit will feature presentations on health literacy research findings, evidence-based practices, interventions, tools, and policy implications that can be applied to improve the health literacy environment at the local, regional, and national levels. Travel scholarships will be available for WREN clinicians to attend.

Visit www.wren.wisc.edu to submit your presentation or workshop proposal today. Registration information will be posted to the WREN website in December.

Call for Proposals

4th Biennial Wisconsin Health Literacy Summit - April 12 -13, 2011



Wisconsin
Research &
Education
Network

Visit www.wren.wisc.edu to submit your proposal today.
Application Deadline: November 29, 2010



New projects focus on quality improvement, new faces at WREN, April health literacy conference

The last few months have been very busy at the WREN offices wrapping up some projects, conducting another successful annual meeting, staffing changes, and new projects getting started.

I am particularly excited about our new three-year AHRQ funded quality improvement project working with Jim Mold, MD, at the Oklahoma Physicians Resource/Research Network (OKPRN) on implementing stage 3 chronic kidney disease guidelines. OKPRN is one of the premiere practice-based research networks in the country and has much experience implementing practice change in busy primary care practices. We will learn a lot from them during this project.

Keeping with the quality improvement theme, we are about to start data gathering for a collaboration project with Enid Montague, PhD, at the UW Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, looking at patient trust when doctors use computers in the examination room. We are also launching a one-year project working with Jon Keevil, MD, at the UW Department of Medicine, to evaluate and improve usability of his cardiac risk assessment and treatment *HeartDecision* software that has been integrated into UW Health Epic software.

We were sad to say goodbye to WREN Regional Research Coordinator Cindy

Colombo this fall. We wish her well in her new position in the Department of Neurosurgery. We are excited about the energy and skills that two new WREN staff bring with them; Veronica Harper, WREN Program Assistant, and Mark Remiker, WREN Regional Research Coordinator.

I want to add a special welcome to the newest member of the WREN Steering Committee, Curt Olson, PhD from the UW Office of Continuing Professional Development in Medicine and Public Health. Curt brings a wealth of experience and strong interest in the continuing education of medical professionals that will help guide future WREN educational efforts.

WREN will also be expanding our education efforts with our first federally funded national conference. We are collaborating with Health Literacy Wisconsin, a division of Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., to bring the 4th Biennial Wisconsin Health Literacy Summit to Madison on April 12th and 13th, 2011. We will feature many national speakers including Tommy Thompson and past Surgeon General, Richard Carmona, MD. Watch for announcements for travel scholarships for WREN clinicians to attend the meeting and learn more about what you can do about health literacy in your practice.

Happy holidays to all.

WREN STAFF

Paul Smith, MD
Director
608.265.4477

Mike Grasmick, PhD
Network Coordinator
608.265.4597

Veronica Harper, MA
Research Program Assistant
608.262.1112

Peggy O'Halloran, MPH
Research Coordinator
715.855.2057

Mark Remiker, MA
Research Coordinator
608.263.1636

Dates coming soon!

**2011 WREN
Primary Care
Research & Quality
Improvement Forum**

September 2011

Fall Forum highlights WREN projects and celebrates the contribution of past WREN directors

Over 70 family practice clinicians, researchers, and students convened at the Wisconsin Primary Care Research and Quality Improvement Forum on September 16 and 17 in Middleton. In addition to many interesting presentations on topics including biofilms and microbial infections, the common cold, and motivational interviewing, the audience learned about several new and recently completed WREN projects.

Mike Grasmick, network coordinator, spoke about WREN's collaboration with PEARL, a dental practice-based research network, to assess acute pain treatment, while Jamie Lapin and Daniel Krueger from the

UW Madison School of Engineering described findings on primary care workflow gathered from two observational studies conducted in partnership with WREN.

Lena Vera, statistician with the UW Population Health Sciences, reported results from the WREN quality of life and hypertension medication adherence study which was completed this year, and a poster presentation summarized the findings of the WREN project on patient safety conducted in 2009.

Also at this year's event, past WREN Directors, John Beasley, Michael Fleming, and Jon Temte along with

outgoing steering committee chair Dennis Baumgardner, were recognized for their work to build WREN and their continued support of the network and its mission. Each received a commendation from Governor Jim Doyle, as well as a watercolor print of a wren, the original WREN logo.

WREN is already looking ahead to the 2011 meeting, with plans to expand the reach of the forum by collaborating with other organizations who share the goal of providing a forum for primary care practitioners to learn about Wisconsin research and quality improvement efforts in family medicine.



Data collection begins on newly named SAFE-C study

"A Human Factors Intervention to Reduce Risk in Primary Care of the Elderly", a WREN and the UW Madison Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering project, is now the SAFE-C study, or Situational Awareness Facilitating Excellent Care.

The new name reflects the study goal to positively affect care provided to older patients by improving the situational awareness (SA) of primary care physicians. The study intervention aims to improve SA by

providing physicians with needed patient information in an easy to use format prior to a patient visit.

WREN practices involved in the SAFE-C project are becoming very familiar with the new name, as the research team began preliminary data collection efforts at participating practices this month. The team is excited to be in the field after months of careful planning, and has found great value in the observations conducted so far.

Through the end of the year, the patient overview document, a key component of the study intervention will undergo pilot testing at the UW Health Verona clinic.

Following pilot testing, staff at the four participating WREN practices will receive training on the use of the patient overview document and other study procedures. The goal is to begin the first phase of the intervention in early 2011.

WREN and WAFP Primary Care Survey Group Update

WREN has made significant progress towards its goal of recruiting a group of primary care clinicians to participate in a series of brief electronic surveys that address issues important to primary care practice and policy. To date, recruitment efforts have resulted in about 100 primary care clinicians signed on to the group, however, work remains to reach our goal of 200 participants.

Although recruitment efforts continue, the first survey has already been deployed. Dr. David Feldstein, who has worked with WREN on his project to develop a patient management tool to help primary care clinicians care for patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD), is again partnering with WREN on a validation study of a questionnaire that measures primary care clini-

icians' comfort in caring for patients with CKD.

The survey will be completed twice by participating clinicians to test its reliability. In round one, 70% of the WREN/WAFP survey takers completed the survey. Respondents will complete the survey a second time this month. Following completion of the CKD survey validation study, the WREN/WAFP survey group will complete a survey on acute oral pain in January.

If you are a primary care physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner, and are interested in contributing to primary care research and policy as part of the WREN and WAFP Primary Care Survey Group, please visit the WREN website at www.wren.wisc.edu to register.

Contribute to research in just 10 minutes or less a month...

**Join the Wisconsin Primary Care Clinician Survey Group,
a joint venture of WREN and the WAFP.**

It's easy to join! Just follow these steps.

- Logon to www.wren.wisc.edu and click on "Join Survey Group."
- Complete the registration form: Become a WREN Affiliate member at no cost to you, and click "yes" when asked about participating in the Primary Care Survey Group.
- Begin receiving survey invitations by email about once a month and contribute your knowledge to primary care practice and policy.

Researcher Resources: SHOW

The University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine and Public Health launched The Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW) in 2008. SHOW's annual surveys gather data on a variety of health conditions and risk factors, establishing an annual representative sample of Wisconsin residents.



SHOW will be the first statewide research survey of its kind to measure information on critical health conditions in Wisconsin.

The annual surveys enhance existing statewide data efforts because the survey teams visit selected households in person. Participants answer a broad variety of questions about their health, have a short physical exam, provide biologic samples and DNA.

SHOW will allow researchers to explore links between biological, social, community, and individual level determinants of health and health outcomes in Wisconsin.

Community partners and researchers are invited to learn more about the program by visiting its website, www.show.wisc.edu.