

The WREN Review

A publication of the Wisconsin Research & Education Network

Fall/Winter 2011/2012

Feature WREN practice: Richland Medical Center

WREN is committed to conducting translational research in “real world” settings. This work depends on the community-based clinicians and staff who incorporate research protocols into an already demanding work day. WREN is fortunate to work with many practices across Wisconsin willing to take on this challenge.

WREN’s newest partner practice, Richland Medical Center, has been among the busiest this year as they carry out two WREN research projects in the “real world.”

Thanks to the outstanding leadership of Dr. Andy Wright (WREN Physician Champion), Sherry Hansen (WREN Clinic Liaison), and Karl Hirsbrunner (Clinic Administrator), Richland Medical Center has made remarkable contributions by participating in the SAFE-C and Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) projects.

The SAFE-C study, an intervention designed to improve care of older patients, has four Richland Center family practice

physicians diligently completing surveys before and after patient visits on 3 patients per week (no small task in a busy clinic).

Medical Assistants incorporate procedures for distributing and collecting physician and patient surveys into their daily routines, and will transition to a more prominent role during the intervention phase of the project this winter.

And clinic liaison, Sherry Hansen, has done a masterful job managing the enrollment procedures for SAFE-C. This takes time and lots of attention to detail. About her newfound role as a study coordinator, Sherry says, “It’s been great working with the WREN team, and they are very supportive.”

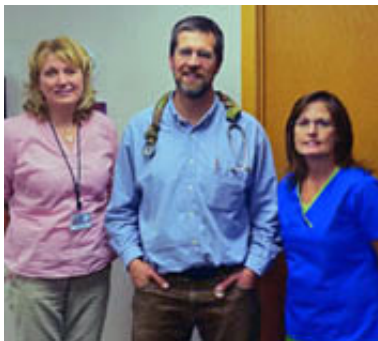
Richland Medical Center’s affiliate clinic, Muscoda Health Center, has put together another outstanding team for the CKD quality improvement project. This team includes clinic management, physicians,

medical assistants, and lab and information systems staff. Working together, this group has identified processes to systematically improve how they care for patients with CKD using evidence-based guidelines.

Project successes at Muscoda include bringing patients in for needed labwork and ensuring that chronic kidney disease appears on the patient problem list. Sherry Hansen, Clinic Liaison, says, “The CKD study has been an eye opener in terms of how many patients actually have CKD.”

The practice has developed a plan to use a CKD registry to monitor patient care, and starting this month, they are using a CKD template they created in their electronic health system.

The team has made impressive progress during the first phase of the project, and will share what they have learned with two other clinics via a Local Learning Collaborative over the next 6 months.



Thank you to the Richland Medical Center and Muscoda Health Center team!

(Left picture back row) Sherry Hansen, Christy Wegner, Eric Boehmer, Robin Butrick, Nicky McCormick, Lyndi Degenhardt, Robin Mathews (Left picture front row) Karl Hirsbrunner, David May, Neil Bard (Right picture) Jenny Silvers, Andy Wright, Helen Burns (Missing: Brenda Craig, Gloria Bassett, Tessa McDaniel, and Monica Maronich)

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WREN projects in the field

WREN practices participating in the *SAFE-C study* have been very busy over the last several months. All have completed the study's pre-intervention phase, and are moving into the intervention phase of the project.

Clinics perfected data collection and study practices during the pre-intervention, which has set the stage for a smooth transition to the intervention phase.

The Mayo Clinic Health System Tomah practice blazed the trail launching the intervention phase of *SAFE-C* in November.

Wildwood Clinic in Madison, Richland Medical Center, and Mile Bluff Clinic in Mauston will follow Tomah's lead in the coming weeks.

Nurses and physicians on the project will work together to implement the Patient Overview Document, or POD, and begin pre-visit huddles for intervention arm patients.

The *SAFE-C* research team is excited to see the POD and huddle in practice after many months of planning and preparation.

At Northeast Family Medicine Clinic, the *CAPTION (Collaboration Among Pharmacists & Physicians to Improve Outcomes Now)* study has reached the target goal of 24 patients enrolled in its hypertension arm.

WREN staff, led by Regional Research Coordinator (RRC) Kate Judge, will over-enroll patients at the Northeast Clinic to help the University of Iowa

with their recruitment goals.

Recently, Northeast patients in the study began attending their 6 month follow-up appointments. This is a two-year study with 6 study visits per patient.

CAPTION's asthma arm patients are receiving a pharmacist intervention, meeting with the pharmacist as needed over the 18 month project period.

WREN continues to support DFM researcher Alek Zgierska in her investigation of *mindfulness meditation* with recovering alcoholics. WREN RRC Mark Remiker will help recruit patients for this study through early next year.

Networking the focus of 2011 forum



Attendees of the 2011 Wisconsin Health Improvement and Research Partnerships Forum had many opportunities to network with fellow researchers and research groups, as well as learn about exciting research projects taking place in the state. WREN hosted the meeting in collaboration with several other Wisconsin-based research organizations.

WREN and its partners made changes to the forum this year to enable participants to make connections and identify areas to work together. For WREN and for others in attendance, the meeting was a true success in that groups identified common areas of research focus. Many of these have already translated into joint grant proposals and other new collaborations.

WREN will partner with the same organizations to continue this theme in 2012. The 2012 forum will be held on September 20–21 at the Monona Terrace in Madison.

WREN ends the year with good news from ICTR and staff changes



As always, WREN has been very busy since our last newsletter with several projects moving along, new projects in the works, our newly structured fall forum, and WREN staffing changes.

We are very pleased to announce that the University of Wisconsin Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (UW ICTR) received a very good score on a re-application for a five year extension of the federal Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA).

WREN is part of the ICTR Community-Academic Partnership umbrella. This means that barring acts of Congress, WREN should be well funded for the next several years.

In September, our new fall forum format brought together many research organizations and networks from around the state. We received very positive feedback about the meeting from the over 110 people in attendance and WREN is exploring several potential new collaborations as a result of discussions that began at the forum. We hope you will join us for the two day forum next year, September 20-21, 2012 at the Monona Terrace.

This fall, we were very sorry to say goodbye to Mike Grasmick, the WREN Network Coordinator for almost eight years who left to pursue other interests. We recently completed a search for a new network coordinator and are excited to welcome Melody Bockenfeld to the position after the start of the new year.

Some of you may have already heard that I am stepping down as WREN Director to become Associate Director. I have been WREN Director for more than five years. I am very gratified with the progress and growth of WREN during that time, however, it has become increasingly difficult to pursue my own interests in health literacy while serving in this role. It is time for someone else to bring in new ideas and energy to continue to move WREN forward.

I am grateful that Valerie Gilchrist, MD, has agreed to serve as Interim Director until our search for a new director is complete. As we interview candidates we will look for others to contribute to the process. If anyone has a candidate in mind, please let us know.

As 2011 winds down, we look forward to new opportunities to work together that 2012 will bring. Thank you for your continued support of WREN!

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SAVE THE DATE: 2012

Wisconsin Health Improvement and Research Partnerships Forum

September 20-21, 2012 • Monona Terrace, Madison, WI • www.wren.wisc.edu

Clinician Resources: CKD

As part of the quality improvement project to improve care of patients with chronic kidney disease, WREN has identified several CKD resources for clinicians and researchers alike. A complete list of resources for this project is posted at www.wren.wisc.edu on our research page. We highlight a few of these resources here.

The Diabetes Prevention & Control Program at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Lion's Foundation partnered to develop a *chronic kidney disease DVD for patients*. The DVD discusses chronic kidney disease prevention, causes and treatment, and the importance of early detection. Its target audience is people, with or at risk of, diabetes and high blood pressure – the two leading causes of chronic kidney disease. The video and order forms are available at the Wisconsin Lion's Foundation website.

Clinical practice guidelines for CKD are available online at the National Kidney Foundation Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative website at www.kidney.org/professionals/KDOQI, and a quick reference guide is available on the WREN website.

The *National Kidney Disease Education Project (NKDEP)* has many resources for patients and health care professionals including GFR calculators, patient education materials, and other tools for use in practice.

WREN Practices work to improve chronic kidney disease care

This spring, WREN launched the first phase of the three-year AHRQ funded quality improvement project to implement evidence-based guidelines for chronic kidney disease (CKD).

WREN identified three UW Health family medicine practices, including Cottage Grove, Sun Prairie, and Odana Atrium along with the Mayo Clinic Health System Tomah Clinic, Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center in Cashton, Muscoda Health Center, and two Milwaukee practices, Aurora Health System Plymouth and Bread of Healing Community Health Center, to participate in this project.

These eight practices have been working with WREN for six months to identify changes to improve care of CKD patients. Practices have received academic detailing and other educational materials, performance feedback, practice facilitation, and health information technology support.

With this support, practices have tested new processes to improve CKD care, with many focusing on better identification and tracking of these patients, and developing tools such as patient registries and electronic health record templates to improve patient care in practice.

As Wave I of the project nears completion, WREN has been recruiting

practices to participate in Wave II, which will kick-off in January.

This second and final wave of the project will promote diffusion through local learning collaboratives (LLC). During monthly LLC meetings, Wave I practices will share their experiences and newfound expertise on improving care of CKD patients with the Wave II practices.

Several of the practices recruited for Wave II share EHR systems with the eight clinics already participating, so can benefit from the tools and strategies developed by the eight Wave I clinics.

Regional Research Coordinator Hannah Louks sums up the sentiment at WREN about the next wave of the project, "It will be exciting to see how the new practices choose to apply what we have done so far in their unique settings." Wave II of this project will wrap up in fall of 2012.



*The CKD project team at the Mayo Clinic in Tomah
Kristi Carlson, Jill Hendrickson, Rod Erickson, and Kim Libbey*



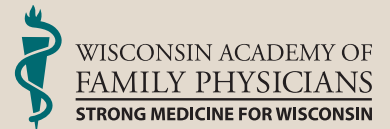
Scenes from the 2011 Wisconsin Health Improvement and Research Partnerships Forum



Couldn't attend?
Forum presentations are available
at www.wren.wisc.edu

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