

DFW Healthcare at Its Best

Studies show that patients receive appropriate care in the doctor's office only half the time. But why shouldn't patients expect to receive appropriate care all the time?

The Dallas Fort-Worth Business Group on Health, a coalition of 146 employers that provide health benefits for more than 250,000 DFW area employees and their families, is tackling this problem by bringing together key stakeholders in our community in a collaborative effort to improve the quality and outcomes of health care provided to patients with chronic conditions. This unprecedented collaboration of employers, physicians, consumers and health plans is called the Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance (PPHP). The stakeholders may have diverse perspectives, but they share a common interest: making sure that all DFW residents who suffer from chronic conditions receive the best care anywhere.

Working with employers, physicians, consumers and health plans, the Partnership will:

- Measure, improve and eventually publicly report the extent to which physicians adhere to evidence-based treatment guidelines for chronic illnesses.
- Educate and empower patients to proactively participate in managing their own chronic conditions.
- Motivate consumers to demand better quality care for chronic illnesses and to act on publicly reported information about health care quality.

First Step: Diabetes

The PPHP chose to focus first on diabetes, a chronic condition with a growing impact in Texas. About 1.3 million Texans are diagnosed with diabetes and another 418,000 do not yet know they have it. Diabetes can lead to serious and costly complications, and is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. To improve diabetes care in DFW, the PPHP initiated a multi-pronged approach:

Research of stakeholder groups helped us understand the status of diabetes care in DFW and revealed opportunities to improve the quality and outcome of care.

Diabetes Care Reports will be mailed annually to DFW physicians who treat diabetes patients. These reports consolidate claims data from five major health plans in DFW, giving to physicians for the first time a broad overview of the care their patients receive and showing how care compares to that of other DFW physicians.

Worksite Programs made available to DFVBGH members will educate employees on what high quality, evidence-based health care looks like and how to obtain it.

Physician Best Practice Forums will facilitate sharing of quality improvement ideas between physicians.

Value-Based Benefit Design concepts and best practices are a major focus of DFVBGH educational programs for DFW employers and health plans.

For more information on the Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance, please visit our website at: www.dfwbgh.org/partnership

To get involved in the PPHP please contact us at pphp@dfwbgh.org.

Together we can improve the health of our community!