

Spreading Best Practices: Toolkits Help Align and Equip

Web-based topical toolkits are a resource provided by the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) that aim to educate and present resources to physicians and healthcare providers on a variety of healthcare topics. A collaboration of best practices, forms, policies, and success stories in one place, these free toolkits exemplify the “all teach- all learn” attitude of IHC. Each toolkit is supported by community mentors throughout the state and is reviewed by local experts in the subject matter for their content validity.

Though each toolkit varies in configuration, all have the following basic components:

- **A Case for Change** – Provides an overview of the problem including facts and statistics, and the reason the toolkit was developed.
- **National Guidelines and Parameters** - IHC works toward convergence, application of national initiatives, and the use of evidence-based medicine.
- **Tools** - Includes educational materials for providers and patients, specific guidelines or planning and implementation techniques, policies and protocols, and examples of forms used by other facilities.
- **Success Stories and Mentors** - Who is doing this in Iowa? How is it working? How can we learn from each other?
- **Resources** – Additional websites, supporting articles and information.

IHC currently has toolkits available on the following topics:

- Anticoagulation
- Aortic Dissection
- CA-UTI
- Colored Wrist Bands
- Culture of Safety
- Health Literacy
- Healthcare-Associated Infections, including:
 - Surgical Site Infection
 - Central Line Infection
 - Hand Hygiene
- Influenza Immunization Among Healthcare Workers
- Lean in Health Care
- Medical Home
- Medication Reconciliation
- Metabolic Syndrome
- Narcotics

- Obesity
- Stroke
- Tobacco Cessation

Newest to the list is the Metabolic Syndrome toolkit, which includes information on diagnosis and treatment, as well as information that providers can share with their patients.

The toolkits are available online at www.ihconline.org under the “Toolkits” tab.

SUCCESS SNAPSHOT

Wristbands for Patient Safety

Clarinda Regional Health Center

The Clarinda Regional Health Center has been utilizing the various toolkits provided on the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) website in their hospital for the past few years. Recently, the Patient Safety Team, led by Becky Baldwin, wanted to make greater use of wristbands in order to align with National Patient Safety Goals as well as state recommendations to ensure the continuity of care.

The Patient Safety Team utilized a brochure and policy draft within the wristband toolkit provided on the website to create a policy that was customized specifically to meet the needs of their hospital community. “We have made some adjustments to align ourselves with the recommendations and find what works for our facility. Many of our wristbands/alert colors were the same; however, some were not. We are looking at the process, have our own draft policy, and are waiting to send it for approval,” said Maggie Brown, RN, Manager, Wound Care Clinic.

Helping Iowans Stop Smoking

Iowans for Wellness & Prevention

Iowans for Wellness & Prevention (IWP) was a key partner of the IHC in the creation and distribution of the tobacco cessation toolkit. “We wanted to create a place where providers would have access to all of the resources they need to talk to their patients about quitting smoking,” said John Stineman, senior policy advisor to IWP.

IWP has helped distribute the toolkit by printing out postcard-sized cards that providers can keep, which has the toolkit link printed on them. “As the toolkit is something that we can regularly update with new information, providers now have an easy way to remember where to access the toolkit,” said Stineman.

The tobacco cessation toolkit has been well received by the provider community within the state, and been accessed by providers from other states as well.