

Grant Outcome Report

Authorization to Underwrite Fees for a National Diabetes Recognition Program

The Problem

Nearly 1.8 million New Yorkers suffer from diabetes, 4.5 million others have prediabetes, and disease-related costs for the State are estimated at \$12.9 billion annually.¹ The epidemic affects individuals' health and also takes a toll on health care institutions, health plans, and the State's budget.

To address this crisis, the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) invested in a five-year, \$35 million Diabetes Campaign with the goal of reversing the epidemic. Established in 2008, the Campaign focused on three strategies: improving clinical care and patient outcomes; mobilizing communities to prevent diabetes and support diabetes self-management; and promoting policies that sustain comprehensive and effective care for people with diabetes. Under its strategy to improve clinical care and patient outcomes, the Foundation expects to have 3,000 of New York State's primary care physicians providing excellent diabetes care to patients with diabetes, as evidenced by achieving certification from national diabetes recognition programs. By reaching 3,000 physicians, the Foundation hopes to create a new standard of diabetes care that will lead most of the State's remaining doctors to adopt best care practices in response to peer and market pressures.

The Foundation identified the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as one of two nationally renowned diabetes recognition programs that recognize physicians who meet the highest standards of diabetes control, and who can provide data on outcome measures for at least a 12-month period to demonstrate that they have met these standards. Under this program, physicians and

KEY INFORMATION:

GRANTEE

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

GRANT TITLE

Underwriting Fees for a National Diabetes Recognition Program

DATES

December 15, 2010 – April 17, 2012

GRANT AMOUNT

\$150,000

FUNDING

Diabetes Campaign-Solicited

¹ New York State Department of Health, "The State of Diabetes in New York State: A Surveillance Report," http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/diseases/conditions/diabetes/docs/1997-2004_surveillance_report.pdf, accessed May 2012; Cowie, C. et al. (2008). Full accounting of diabetes and pre-diabetes in the U.S. population in 1988-1994 and 2005-2006. *Diabetes Care*, 32 (2), 287-294; American Diabetes Association, "The Estimated Prevalence and Cost of Diabetes in New York," <http://www.diabetesarchive.net/advocacy-and-legalresources/cost-of-diabetes-results.jsp?state=New+York&district=0&DistName=New+York+%28Entire+State%29>, accessed May 2012.

physician practices voluntarily submit medical record data demonstrating that they provide high levels of diabetes care based on seven evidence-based clinical outcome measures for diabetes.

Physicians who attain NCQA recognition are part of an elite group that is publicly recognized for their skills in providing the highest level of diabetes care. Additionally, through the Campaign's efforts, health plans and employers in New York State have begun to design financial incentive programs for providers who achieve the clinical outcomes measured by these recognition programs.

In 2010, NYSHealth awarded a \$150,000 grant to NCQA to help underwrite application, data collection tool, and administrative fees for physicians and physician practices interested in attaining diabetes recognition through the Campaign, as these fees can be a major barrier for some to apply.

Grant Activities and Outcomes

By 2012, this grant supported the NCQA recognition of approximately 916 physicians.

This direct relationship with NCQA has allowed NYSHealth to negotiate for more direct services for Campaign applicants, including a dedicated staff person at NCQA with whom they can work and a preferred application fee rate.

The formal partnership with NCQA has also increased the Campaign's exposure at the national level; NCQA has promoted NYSHealth efforts through its website, conferences, and other venues.

Future

NCQA was awarded another grant in 2012—up to \$655,000 to continue underwriting its fees for New York State applicants. This sizable investment will continue to elevate the Foundation's leadership role in addressing the diabetes epidemic. Driven largely by the Campaign's efforts, New York State now has the second-highest number of NCQA-recognized clinicians in the nation. As part of this grant, the communications staff at NCQA will continue to work with the Foundation to raise the Campaign's visibility at the national level, and will use New York as a case study on how to engage primary care providers at a statewide level.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. Since its founding in 1990, NCQA has been a central figure in driving improvement throughout the health care system, helping to elevate the issue of health care quality to the top of the national agenda.

NCQA's programs and services reflect a straightforward formula for improvement: measure, analyze, improve, repeat. NCQA makes this process possible in health care by developing quality standards and performance measures for a broad range of health care entities. These measures and standards are the tools that organizations and individuals can use to identify opportunities for improvement. The annual reporting of performances against such measures has become a focal point for the media, consumers, and health plans, which use these results to set their improvement agendas for the following year.

GRANTEE CONTACT

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NYSHEALTH CONTACT

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