Evidence Development & Use in a Learning Health System
Transforming clinical knowledge generation in the United States

A National Academy of Medicine Event

Release of a Symposium Series Summary Publication
...funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Host: NAM Leadership Consortium for a Value & Science-Driven Health System

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2101 Constitution Avenue NW | Washington, DC 20418

Event Focus

Public release of an NAM publication summarizing insights from a series of meetings involving health system executives and clinical research leaders exploring the issues, prospects, and progress for transforming evidence development and use.

Key Questions

1. How can evidence development be accelerated, given current knowledge and resources?
2. What might that mean for better outcomes for patients and greater efficiency in health care?
3. What system and culture changes are required to generate evidence from the care experience?
4. How much progress has been made in preparing the field for the paradigm shift?
5. What are the hallmarks of successful partnerships among care executives and research leaders?
6. What are the priorities in advancing executive leadership to the next level for continuously learning health and health care?

About the Discussion Series

In 2016, the NAM hosted a series of meetings, which was sponsored by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, with support from NAM's Executive Leadership Network. The series underscored the importance of partnerships between researchers and health system leadership and considered opportunities to build institutional capacity, cross-institutional synergy, and system-wide learning. During these meetings, health system executives, researchers, and others discussed building infrastructure that simultaneously facilitates care delivery, care improvement and evidence development. The vision is a digital system-wide progress toward continuous and seamless learning and improvement throughout health and health care.

Next Steps

Health executives expressed the importance of having a networked evidence system and having an organization, such as PCORnet, to harness data and facilitate infrastructure development and operation. Additionally, participants highlighted the necessity to connect with other agencies across numerous sectors to collect and analyze other data that impacts health, such as factors of social determinants of health and behavior patterns. With clear desirability of having such a system, there are numerous opportunities for potential collaboration to refine tools and strategies in accessing data for a continuous learning health system.

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Themes and Opportunities for Action

The meeting series highlighted the data needed from executive-level decision makers. Recurring themes, needs, and opportunities are highlighted below in Box 1-1.

Box 1-1
Common Themes and Opportunities for Action

Executive Needs
- Data structured for **priority action**
- Findings that are **context-applicable**
- **Work flow-friendly** continuous learning and improvement
- Strategies for integrating **knowledge generation into the business proposition**
- Innovation that enhances **efficiency**
- Patient- and provider-resonant **research returns**

**Success Factors: The PCORNet Example**
- Health system leaders helping to **shape research priorities**
- Shared **leadership accountability**
- Engaged **clinicians**
- Early focus on **dissemination and implementation**
- Based on full collaboration between **research side and operations/practice side**

Capacity Requirements
- EHR systems designed for flexible incorporation of **emerging core elements**
- Continuous **training and peer learning networks**
- Visualizations and delivery system toolkits that facilitate **translation to decisions**
- Analytic capacity and practice that **integrates multiple data sources**

Stakeholder Action Priorities
- Research models and methods **proven in real-world settings**
- Training and competencies for researchers **embedded in delivery systems**
- Access to, and integration of, social determinants **data from outside health care**
- Demonstrated strategies for **implementing new practices** into health care systems
- Better evidence on **impact of EHR-embedded information on outcomes**
- **Inventory of research issues** most important
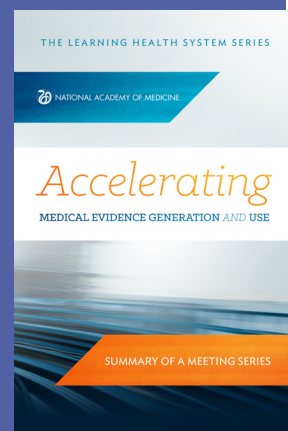
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