

Weekly Medical Directors Briefing May 31 – June 04, 2021

“It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.”

—Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, 1863

Memorial Day, 2021

Each Memorial Day, Americans remember our nation’s soldiers who gave their lives for their country. We have changed much as a society in the 150 years since the civil war. In 2021, we recognize that the principles representative democracy, a balance of power, and fundamental rights are more tenuous than we perhaps recognized. We honor those who sacrificed their lives so that we may live under such principles.

As widespread vaccination assists the United States with bringing COVID-19 under control within our country, we should also pause and remember the 3,600 doctors, nurses, and other health care workers in the United States who died from COVID, even while they worked in a risk-filled environment to treat and comfort their infected patients.

This Week’s News

Summary of Regional Medical Directors Meeting

It was great to see many of you at the virtual Regional Medical Director meeting on May 21. The following materials are available on the [PHC website](#):

- Detailed notes: a longer version for leaders and a shorter version to forward to front-line clinicians.
- County profiles, with a focus on pediatric health.
- Handouts on several topics covered at the meeting.

We are hoping to go back to in-person meetings, starting next autumn, if the COVID-19 infection remains well controlled.

New Process for Issuing Medical Exemptions for Childcare and School Immunizations in California

On January 1, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) launched the California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption website (CAIR-ME, <https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions>) to request, issue, manage, and track medical exemptions from required immunizations for children in child care/preschool and school (grades K-12).

Medical exemptions for children can only be issued using the [CAIR-ME website](#). MDs and DOs licensed in California can register to use CAIR-ME at any

time in order to issue a medical exemption. Instructions are available on [CAIR-ME](#) along with on-screen prompts. You can also watch a [webinar](#) and review [slides](#) on how to register and use CAIR-ME.

Please note that documents such as written letters and lab results about immunity do not suffice for school and childcare entry. Schools and child care facilities can only accept immunization records or a medical exemption for immunizations issued through CAIR-ME.

For more information about immunizations required for childcare and school entry, click [here](#). If you have questions, please email medicalexemptions@cdph.ca.gov.

Technical Support Grants to Improve HPSA Scores

After input from our provider network on workforce development needs, Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) is pleased to announce a new technical assistance grant for Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) scoring. HPSA scores are used for prioritization for federal health professional loan repayment programs, which are often used by federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), although clinicians working at some other types of practices are eligible.

Who is eligible?

Contracted primary care provider organizations who will undergo HPSA review within the next two years are welcome to apply.

Important Dates:

- Application period: May 10- June 25, 2021
- Awardees Notified: July 2021
- Grant program begins: August 2, 2021

How to apply:

Visit our Workforce Development page for additional information and to access the grant application (opens on May 10, 2021).

<http://www.partnershiphp.org/Providers/Medi-Cal/Pages/Workforce-Development.aspx>

Please contact our Workforce Development Team with any questions:

WFDGrants@partnershiphp.org

Strategies to Affect Improvement in Measures during COVID-19

Throughout the Pandemic, patients have been reluctant to attend many of their health care appointments and screenings. This is a concern for all of us especially as it relates to Adolescent Immunizations and Breast Cancer Screenings.

At PHC, in collaboration with some of our network providers, we have developed a few promising practices based on our research throughout the Pandemic which are available for you:

- [Shot at Success: Integrating the Immunization Dose Report into the Vaccine Process](#)

- [Primary Care – Imaging Center Connections: Collaborating to Improve Mammography Screening Rates](#)
- Member Online Tool: [Routine Mammogram Screenings](#) (Information & Resources)

PHC Medical Equipment Distribution Services

The PHC Medical Equipment Distribution Services Program is offering four new types of monitoring and treatment medical equipment to PHC members at no cost.

- Humidifiers
- Nebulizers
- Scales
- Vaporizers

As a friendly reminder, the program also continues to allow providers to request the following for their PHC patients:

- Blood pressure monitors
- Oximeters
- Digital thermometers

In addition, we also supply additional blood pressure monitor cuff sizes, nebulizer replacement parts, and user instructions in the member's preferred language. Since the program launched, PHC has provided more than 2,500 devices to PHC members in over 40 different healthcare organizations, and continues to fulfill equipment requests daily.

To request equipment, providers are required to review the Medical Equipment Distribution [guidelines](#), complete the [request form](#), and submit the completed form to PHC by emailing request@partnershipphp.org or by faxing the form to (707) 420-7855.

For any questions, please contact request@partnershipphp.org.

Kaiser Series Focused on COVID Vaccine Concerns of Different Ethnicities

Kaiser Napa-Solano is hosting a number of live events on "An Open Conversation About COVID-19 and the Vaccine," featuring ethnically concordant clinicians. They agreed to open these up to the wider community, so you can have your staff or patients attend.

Pre-recorded conversations:

- Spanish-speaking population: Click [here](#) for recording
- English-speaking Latinx population: Click [here](#) for recording
- Tagalog-speaking community: Click [here](#) for recording
- African-American community: Click [here](#) for recording

PHC Educational Opportunities and Events

Quality & Performance Improvement Training Events

For up-to-date events and trainings by the Quality and Performance Improvement Department, please view our [Quality Events Webpage](#).

Looking for more educational opportunities? The Quality & Performance Improvement Department has many pre-recorded, on-demand courses available to you. Trainings include:

- ABCs of Quality Improvement: An introduction to the basic principles of quality improvement.
- Accelerated Learning Educational Program: An overview of clinical measures including improvement strategies and tools.
- Project Management 101 – An introduction to the basic principles and tools used in project management.

You can find these on-demand courses, and more, on our [Webinars Webpage](#).

Virtual ABCs of QI

This virtual training consists of five sessions via webinar. The following topics will be covered:

- What is quality improvement?
- Introduction to the Model of Improvement
- How to create an aim statement (project goal)
- How to use data to measure quality and to drive improvement
- Tips for developing change ideas that lead to improvement
- Testing changes with the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Cycle

Participants are eligible for 1:1 coaching with an Improvement Advisor after attending. These courses are FREE. All webinars are scheduled noon to 1 p.m. on the dates below. Ideally they are taken in sequence, but it is OK to sign up for just one or two.

Target Audience: Clinicians, practice managers and quality improvement team who are new or need a refresher on the basic principles of quality improvement.

Session 1 of 5: The Model for Improvement and Creating an Aim Statement

Description: The ABCs of QI is designed to teach the basic principles of quality improvement. Session 1 will provide an overview of the Model for Improvement, how to create aim statements and an introduction to project charters.

Date: Wednesday, June 02, 2021

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

Session 2 of 5: Using Data for Quality

Description: Session 2 will provide an overview of how data is used in quality improvement.

Date: Wednesday, June 09, 2021

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

Session 3 of 5: Understanding the Role of Measurement in Quality Improvement

Description: In Session 3, we will take a deep dive into the role of measurement in quality improvement.

Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

Session 4 of 5: Tips for Developing Change Ideas for Improvement

Description: In Session 4, we will review and practice creating Driver Diagrams and Process Mapping, tools used to brainstorm change ideas.

Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

Session 5 of 5: Understanding the Role of Measurement in Quality Improvement

Description: In Session 5, we will cover the use of the Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle and the required steps from testing to implementing changes.

Date: Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

Accelerated Learning Education Programs

These learning sessions will cover PHC's Primary Care Provider Quality Incentive Program measures.

Targeted Audience: Clinicians, practice managers, quality managers, quality improvement team, and staff who are responsible for participating and leading quality improvement efforts within their organization.

Improving Asthma Care and the Asthma Medication Ratio

[Flyer](#)

Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits (3-17 years)

[Flyer](#)

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

The Role of Leadership in Quality Improvement Efforts – Interview with Top-Performing Leaders

Leaders from top-performing organizations will share how they were able to build a culture of quality.

Target Audience: This course is intended for executive leaders, managers, and supervisors.

The focus of this training is to:

- Understand the role of leadership in quality
- Learn how to successfully build a culture of quality from proven leaders
- Understand how a culture of quality impacts an organization
- Learn the key principles to improving quality

Petaluma Health Center

Leadership includes CEO and CMO

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

Community Medical Center

Leadership includes CMO, COO, Director of Quality, and FNP

Date: Tuesday, October 05, 2021

Time: 11 a.m. – Noon

[Sign-up Now](#)

Recommended Educational Opportunities Outside of PHC

CIN Partner Meeting – Building Back Better: A Resilient Primary Care Workforce

This partner meeting of the California Improvement Network (CIN) aimed to continue to establish network connections and build relationships among partners with the goal of accelerating the spread of innovation in care delivery. As the only network in California that brings together commercial and safety-net provider organizations, health plans, and quality improvement groups, CIN fosters valuable cross-sector relationships across the state. To learn more about our priority areas and how to participate, visit [About CIN](#).

This virtual meeting focused on one of CIN's priority areas for learning and action – resilient leadership: culture of wellness. [Watch the recorded virtual meeting](#).

[CIN Resource Page: Building a Resilient Primary Care Workforce](#)

Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth

Rachel Hardeman, PhD, MPH of the University of Minnesota developed an interactive training course and resources for perinatal providers focused on implicit bias and reproductive justice.

These resources are developed in accordance with the training requirements outlines in the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act ([Senate Bill 464](#)) which went into effect in January 2020.

All of the e-learning modules and resources developed for this project will be available free of charge. This project was funded by the [California Health Care Foundation](#) in response to strong evidence of racial inequalities in perinatal care and outcomes.

[Free Perinatal Health Equity Resources](#)

UpSkillMA Courses by the Weitzman Institute

UpSkillMA provides practicing Medical Assistants with next level training and expertise to excel in high-performing Primary Care teams. Participants learn at their own pace through an online platform that is user friendly, secure, and HIPAA Compliant.

[Click here for course information and to sign-up.](#)

Best Practices for Patient Engagement

Join the Migrant Clinicians Network and the National Nurse-led Care Consortium for a four-part learning collaborative discussing patient engagement, an essential component for high-quality, person-centered healthcare. This learning collaborative will bring health centers together to explore a framework for patient and family engagement, so that patients can make more informed decisions to increase both their satisfaction and healthcare outcomes.

[Register for Learning Collaborative](#)

Module 4: Governance

Date: Wednesday, June 09, 2021

Time: 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., ET

Annual Palliative Care Summit

CEUs are available

Registration is now open for the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California's 13th Annual Palliative Care Summit, presented in partnership with the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, and Kōkua Mau, a Movement to Improve Care. The two-day Summit will feature world-class speakers, breakouts, discussion sessions, an art and music reception, and a poster session. Attendees will get the latest information on the state of serious illness care from thought leaders, connect with colleagues and friends in breakouts and group discussions, and have the opportunity to rejuvenate the mind and spirit with a variety of activities.

The Summit's keynote speakers are:

- Louise Aronson, MD: Geriatrician, professor of medicine at UCSF, and author of *Elderhood: Redefining Age, Transforming Medicine, and Reimagining Life*
- Jennifer Ballentine, MA: Executive Director of the California State University Shiley Institute for Palliative Care
- Michelle Maldonado, JD: Founder and CEO of Lucenscia, a firm dedicated to human flourishing and mindful business transformation

Register by June 15, 2021, for early bird savings!

Dates: June 22 and 23, 2021

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Full Agenda and Registration: www.CCCCsummit.org