
Key Takeaways from the Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Montana Coalition Summit Panel Discussion

The following content contains feedback collected from community coalition members who attended the virtual event. View the recording by visiting <https://youtu.be/Pww497Y8ZWA>.

Opioids

Prevention, Education and Outreach:

- Reduce the practice of prescribing opioids when they are not necessary for treatment
- Create more education opportunities for public health professionals and the general public

Treatment and Prescription Monitoring:

- Provide education about the evidence-based alternatives to pain management so that we can better support the patients who choose to adopt these options
- Restore trust in the providers and let them use their clinical judgement to assess and prescribe opioids based on their knowledge of each patient and situation without the fear of repercussions
- The new regulations can create barriers for providers and patients, putting the patient at risk of being seen as a drug seeker

Recovery, Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), Behavioral Health (BH) Therapy and Medications:

- Create educational opportunities for employers and the legal system to better understand MAT and treatments, such as suboxone
- Facilitate more communication between the provider and patient to work towards recovery

Chronic Disease Management

Community Resources:

- Health care facilities should employ more preventative-focused staff, such as dietitians, physical therapists, nurses and health coaches, and create educational platforms for these employees to educate the community
- Resources should provide education on the emotional and economic costs of chronic disease management

Telehealth Appointments:

- This has been helpful to increase the safety of everyone, but also because patients from rural areas do not need travel as far to see a specialist
- Telehealth creates shorter wait times to see specialists
- The downside of these appointments is that they are not as in-depth as an in-personal visit

Care Coordination

Increasing Collaboration:

- Electronic health information exchanges are helpful in allowing all providers to have access to the right information at the right time
- We need to determine how to reimburse or pay health care systems for their care coordination services
- Hold staff more accountable to the process of providing information
- Stay focused on the patient and keep them at the center of decisions while respecting clinical judgement from providers

COVID-19 and Infection Control

Patient and Visitor Safety:

- Encourage vaccination and masks among staff, residents and visitors

Immunizations

Vaccine Hesitancy:

- Hold accountable the health care professionals who actively spread misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines
- Engage the support of all types of community leadership to encourage and education people
- Develop campaigns to stop the spread of misinformation
- Create more access to vaccine clinics