

ASSESS & DO Pilot | Act on Social Determinants using EHR tools in Safety net Settings for Diabetes Outcomes Pilot

- *Term: 09/01/2015 – 08/31/2017*
- *Grantee: Kaiser Permanente*
- *Sub-recipient: OCHIN, Inc.*
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This pilot study will assess the feasibility of using electronic health record-based tools to help community health centers systematically identify and act on the ‘social determinants of health’ affecting patients’ risk of diabetes complications.

Potential Impact

We will identify optimal methods for including and presenting SDH data and suggested actions to address these SDH (such as referrals to local social services) within existing EHR-based decision support systems. We will focus on potentially ‘actionable’ SDH data elements (i.e., evidence suggests that addressing the SDH will improve patient health), and assess whether alerting care teams to patients’ SDH-related needs leads to actions taken to address these needs. We will also identify and, as possible, resolve barriers to care teams acting on SDH data, in the context of care systems that are already overburdened. Using mixed methods, we will then assess: (i) care teams’ perceptions of the tools and how to improve them; (ii) rates of use of the SDH tools (how often / which SDH data are recorded, how often suggested referrals are made, and whether care teams act on these data in other ways); and (iii) rates of follow-up to past SDH-related referrals, among returning patients.



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Organizations Involved

- Cowlitz Family Health Center
- La Clinica
- Multnomah County Health Department