

Objective and Aims of the Australian Primary Care Collaboratives (APCC) Program

The objective of the APCC Program

The objective of the APCC Program is to encourage and support general practices throughout Australia in delivering rapid, measurable, systematic and sustainable improvements in the care they provide to patients, through the sound understanding and effective application of quality improvement methods and skills.

The topic aims

The Australian Primary Care Collaboratives (APCC) Program has focused its efforts on three topics: diabetes, secondary prevention of coronary heart disease (CHD) and access and care redesign. To build on this work, the APCC Program has introduced two new topics: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Chronic Disease Prevention and Self Management (CDPSM).

The aim for Access and Care Redesign:

- 90% of patients should be able to access their primary healthcare professional of choice on the day of their choice.

The aim for Diabetes:

- 50% of patients with diabetes type 1 or diabetes type 2 within participating practices should have a HbA1c of 7.0% or less.

The aim for CHD:

- 30% reduction in the mortality of patients with CHD in three years.

The aim for COPD:

- To reduce by 30% the number of hospital admissions (compared to the previous 12 months) for respiratory illness in patients with COPD.

The aim for CDPSM:

- Increase the identification of those with risk factors for chronic disease and implement strategies to mitigate these risks, including self management. Through this we aim to assess risk factor status in 50% of those for whom it is recommended and reduce the number of risk factors that are not at target by 20%.

Aims and Measures

Each topic in the Program has a specific aim. Aims are targets that will assist in achieving the overall objective for the Program. For example, one of the aims for the current Australian Collaborative is to achieve 50% of patients with diabetes type 1 or diabetes type 2 within participating practices should have an HbA1c of 7.0% or less. This is directly measured through one of the topic measures. The aims usually involve a 'stretch' goal, which is not necessarily easy to achieve and will require significant improvement work to meet.

Measures are data collected specifically to help a participating practice track their improvement, and should be as simple to collect as possible.

While the objective and aims are nationally defined to ensure consistency, we recognise, respect and value that every practice is unique and will come to the APCC Program from different starting points. Indeed, while there are many common issues between practices that allow us to learn from others, we also accept that what works for one practice may not work for another, at least not without customisation to the practice. The APCC Program is not a simple 'one size fits all solution' but a mature approach that genuinely acknowledges the diversity that exists in general practice throughout Australia.

For these reasons it is important for a practice to develop its own objectives and identify the keys tasks, change ideas and, using the Model for Improvementⁱ generate PDSA cyclesⁱⁱ which will help in achieving the Collaborative aims (for more information on PDSA cycles see section titled 'The Model for Improvement').

Objective and Aims of the APCC.doc Last updated 5 Feb 2010

^{i i} Langley, Nolan, Nolan, Norman & Provost (1996) "The Improvement Guide" Jossey Bass, USA.

ⁱⁱ The PDSA cycle is a component of the Model for Improvement. PDSAs refer to Plan, Do, Study, Act cycle – a means of improvement by making small changes.