

Key Informant Questions for Health Care Sites Based on Indicators of High Performing Sites

Goal #1: Identify if the health site has a strategy or system in place for CVD prevention; if none in place identify barriers to this.

Goal #2: Determine if the site has a mechanism for identifying patients with risk for CVD. If none exists, identify barriers to this.

Goal #3: Identify if site has in use a mechanism for “follow up” of patients with identified CVD risk factors. If not, identify barriers.

Goal #4: Identify site’s major area most ready for change.

Goal #1: Identify if the health site has a strategy or system in place for CVD prevention

Q1. “Does your health site have a formal clinical pathway or system for implementing cardiovascular disease prevention (strategy)? [PROBE: Do you have a formal strategy for CVD prevention? A formal system could include counseling, screening and referral.]

Q1B. If “no”: What are the barriers to developing and using a formal system?

Q2: Is there a system or procedure in place for clinicians to access a list of available preventative health benefits offered by a patient’s health insurance (gym, smoking cessation, weight reduction program)?

Q2B If “no” why would you estimate that this is not in place?

Q2C: If “yes” do your physicians refer to these preventative benefits at the time of the patient’s visit?

Q2D. If ‘no’ why not? What are the barriers to the physicians doing this?

Goal #2: Determine if the site has a mechanism for identifying patients with risk for CVD.

Q3: Does your health site have a system or policy to automatically evaluate/screen adult patients over 20 years for risk of CVD?

Q3B. If ‘yes’: Does this include testing for blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, smoking and diabetes?

Q3C. If “no” to either...What would be a major reason or reasons why your practice does not have this? [PROBE: what would you say is a barrier to establishing and using a mechanism for identifying patients with risk for CVD?]

Q4. Does your health site have a defined process in place (either a registry or database) to identify all patients with known hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes or CVD? [PROBE: CVD refers to coronary artery, cerebrovascular and peripheral vascular disease.]

Q4B. If ‘no’ What would be a major reason or reasons why your practice does not have this?

Q5. What would you recommend for your site or practice to improve routine CVD screening, if anything?

Goal #3: Identify sites that have in use a mechanism for “follow up” of patients with identified CVD risk factors.

Q6: Do you ask patients questions in order to identify unhealthy behavior they may have that could eventually lead to CVD? [PROBE: smoking, physical inactivity, stress]?

Q7: Once a patient is identified as having unhealthy behavior, does your health site have a system or policy in place to follow up on the individual’s behavior to monitor for behavior changes?

Q7B. If “yes” what system do you use to follow up on these patients behavior? [PROBE: chart stickers/flags; automated reminders to the patient’s provider; office generated letter to the patient; office-based follow-up system; other.]

Q7C. If “no” what would be a barrier to having this follow-up system in place? [PROBE: for patients with unhealthy life styles.]

Q8: Do you have a system or mechanism in place to determine if your physicians use the CVD systems that you have?

Q9: “Does your practice/site have a system or policy to automatically inform patients of their 10 year risk for developing CVD?”

Q9B. If “yes” what system do you use to follow up on these patients behavior? [PROBE: chart stickers/flags; automated reminders to the patient’s provider; office generated letter to the patient; office-based follow-up system; other.]

Q9C. If “no” what would be a barrier to your practice having that system in place and using it?

Goal #4: Identify site’s major area most ready for change.

Q10: Of all of the areas that we have discussed... CVD screening, prevention and follow up...what would your practice be most able and willing to add to improve CVD services for your patients?
