As part of CDC’s Community Transformation Grant program, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) entered into a partnership with the Massachusetts League (League) of Community Health Centers (CHC) to increase preventive care in primary care settings. By adopting a quality improvement (QI) strategy, we promote positive change in national Million Hearts™ ABCS measures (ABCS: Aspirin, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, and Smoking).

Each quarter, the League transfers encounter-level electronic health records data (EHR) to MDPH which includes every adult medical encounter from participating CHCs. These data extracts from the EHR are created from the CHIA DRVS system (Community Health Information Association Data Repository & Visualization System). Using this data, feedback reports are created with input from the QI coach that focus on ABCS measures for individual providers and teams. Data on race/ethnicity and preferred language is used to identify populations to focus on for quality improvement activities.

The medical records indicate differences in hypertension control among different racial/ethnic groups as well as by preferred language. EHR data can be used to drive change at the provider-level through the creation of individualized and team feedback reports. QI coaches working in conjunction with MDPH and providers ensure that reports reflect the concerns of care teams. EHR data that can be customized for in-depth data exploration can support quality improvement efforts in primary care settings. In the long-term, feedback reports will focus on improved health outcomes.

For more information on this project, please contact Laura Nasuti (laura.nasuti@state.ma.us)

1. Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention
2. Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers