

Change is inevitable;  
growth is intentional.

Glenda Cloud

PRESCRIPTION  
FOR

# health highlights

PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS IN PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH NETWORKS

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Prescription for Health Highlights

[Editor: Linda Niebauer](#)



Peace on Earth

## Timely Evidence

In early December, the National Committee for Quality Assurance focused its 2007 Policy Conference in Washington, D. C. on building the patient-centered medical home, a unifying objective for nurses, pediatricians, internists, family physicians, and mental health professionals. A remarkably candid set of presentations revealed widespread support for the concept of the medical home—and frustration with its relative “unavailability.” Dr. Paul Grundy, Director of Healthcare and Technology and Strategic Initiatives for IBM stated that IBM has instructed its benefits management company that they want to buy the “medical home” for all IBM employees by January 1, 2009. A representative from Medicare reported that they hope to launch medical home demonstrations by January 1, 2009.

The tensions between the desire for and the reality of the medical home confirm the relevance and timeliness of the work of Prescription for Health (P4H). The NPO has repeatedly summarized what P4H is all about with the sentence, “The innovators are figuring out what it will take to install health behavior counseling as core business in the new model of primary care practice.” The supplement from P4H from round one reported the fortuitous overlap between the systems necessary to accomplish this with the systems necessary for chronic disease management. As the final reports from round 2 innovators have come in, the NPO is seeing further evidence that *it can be done!*

As we proceed with our last year of P4H operations, focused on communicating what we learned, the medical home is probably the context into which our collective work fits best. The lessons about change management, inappropriate financing, the need for community linkages and teamwork—floating on top of what innovators in the nation’s practice-based research networks were able to accomplish in even toxic circumstances—are not only important and useful, but very, very timely.

As the holidays approach at the end of 2007, we at the NPO want to thank the 22 PBRNs that took on the challenge of redesigning primary care and made progress that matters not to a few, but to almost everyone in our country. And we want to urge all of the innovators to publish your results as soon as you can—the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is time to remake primary care into the patient-centered medical home, and you all know a lot about what it is going to take.

Thank you and best wishes from Denver.

Larry A. Green, MD  
Director, Prescription for Health



# A Dataset Like No Other



The NPO has received full patient datasets from all 10 networks. Thank you! There are more than 7,000 patients at baseline and about 5,000 patients at follow-up. These are very rough numbers with all incumbent limitations, but this is a dataset like no other. We will be working hard in the coming weeks to prepare the data for analysis, refine the primary analytic plan, and get started with analysis.

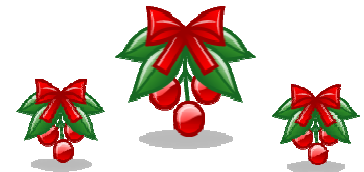
Some of you have already expressed interest in using these data for an analytical idea of your own. We invite any innovators who are interested to step up with other ideas for uses of the COMBO data.

The NPO has also received expenditure datasets from all 10 networks. Thank you, again! Final dataset preparation, creation of summary reports, and analyses are underway.

Finally, the NPO, the Expenditure Team, and the A-Team are working on creating datasets that could be used to combine patient, expenditure, and practice-level data in future analyses.

Doug Fernald, COMBO PI

# Dissemination Plans



## Mini Summits

Meetings with key audiences are a key component of the P4H dissemination plan for 2008. Dates, places and programs will be decided soon. Prescription for Health final reports are helping guide the design of these “mini summits.” We’re getting good advice from you innovators, with some extra help from Steve Woolf. Expect to hear from us, perhaps asking for your participation.

## Meeting Presentations

Presentations accepted to date in 2008 include: *Lessons from the Prescription for Health Study Using REAIM as a Framework to Measure Outcomes, Implementation and Process* to be presented at the annual meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine in April in Pittsburgh and *Development of New Systems and Roles Necessary to Bridge Structural Holes Between Primary Care Practices and Community Resources*, a poster to be presented at the IHI International Forum on Quality Improvement and Health Care in Paris, France.

## P4H Supplement, Round 2

A phone conference today with Dr. Kevin Patrick, Editor for the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, solidified plans for a 64-page supplement of approximately 10-12 manuscripts. We will keep you posted about timelines as such information becomes available.

Two one-pagers about P4H have been published by the AAFP Graham Center since summer: *Improving the Use of Patient Registries in U. S. Primary Care Practices* and *Behavior Change Counseling in the Medical Home*.



## Program Updates

### Final Reports

**Project reports** from eight projects have been received and submitted to RWJF.

**The annual NPO program report** was submitted to RWJF November 29, 2007.

### P4H Website [www.prescriptionforhealth.org](http://www.prescriptionforhealth.org)

**Toolkit Section:** The NPO is working to update this section with Round 2 project tools. Look for these to be posted by February 2008.

**Round 2 Results:** This section, too, is in the works and will be active by February 2008.

## P4H Calendar

### April 9-12, 2008

Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting, Pittsburg, PA

### April 23-25, 2008

IHI International Forum on Quality Improvement and Health Care, Paris, France

### May 2-6, 2008

Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI

### June 8-10, 2008

Academy Health Annual Research Meeting,

### June 11-12, 2008

AHRQ PBRN Conference, Bethesda, MD

### June 18-20, 2008

America's Health Insurance Plan (AHIP), San Francisco, CA

### September 21-25, 2008

AHIP Medicare and Medicaid Conferences, Washington DC.

### November 12-14, 2008

RWJF Program Meeting, Princeton, NJ

### November 15-19, 2008

NAPCRG Annual Meeting, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

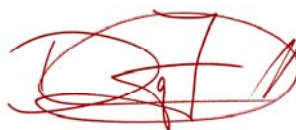
Warm Wishes for a Joyous Holiday

J. Green



Maebel Fuentes

Michelle Shiver



PMBma Linda Nebauer



Happy 2008