

NACDS Foundation Programmatic Update: October 2021

Vaccination Awareness Campaign: The Foundation teamed up with the March of Dimes in 2020, and again this past spring, on national radio tours to educate the public on the importance of getting vaccinated against COVID-19 and flu. The tours included nearly 20 interviews with March of Dimes' former Chief Medical & Health Officer, Rahul Gupta, MD, as the key spokesperson. Highlights from the tours are available [here](#).

Research Updates: This year, the Foundation has forged ahead to plan, implement, and publish new care delivery models that aim to improve outcomes, foster quality, and advance healthcare access for patients and their communities.

Updates include:

- **Research Publications Update.** To date, 30 Foundation research articles have been published in peer-reviewed journals. Most recently, initial feasibility findings from the Foundation's comprehensive medication management study were [published](#) this summer in the *Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy*. Another Foundation project, aimed at increasing access to HIV and hepatitis C screenings and care linkage, was submitted to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) *Preventing Chronic Disease* journal and is pending acceptance.
- **Improving Quality of Care for Vascular Health Through Enhanced Comprehensive Medication Management.** At 130 participating pharmacies in Minnesota, researchers implemented interventions targeting suboptimal medication use and supportive care, including smoking cessation, with the aim of improving health outcomes for patients with diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The study has recorded 700 patient encounters with positive trends in the early findings. The research team continues data analysis on the effectiveness of the intervention, clinical outcomes, and sustainability with completion of the primary analysis expected in 2022.
- **Developing and Testing a Value-Based Services Framework for Community Care.** Significant progress has been made toward recruiting community pharmacy partners in an effort to implement sustainable interventions for comprehensive diabetes and cardiovascular programs, HIV screening and prevention, and behavioral health screening and support. These interventions were prioritized based on an extensive landscape assessment and input from external stakeholders. The first intervention, which focuses on comprehensive diabetes care, is scheduled to begin this fall.
- **Supporting Access to Screening and Linkage to Care for Substance Use Disorders – Project Lifeline Phase II Expansion.** Following the successful implementation of substance use disorder screenings and linkage to care in Blair County, Pennsylvania, Project Lifeline expanded to Allegheny County, Pennsylvania in 2019. With Phase I results highlighting the feasibility of SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) implementation in community pharmacies, this expansion into Phase II aims to evaluate the sustainability of the care model. Currently, 14 community pharmacies are participating in the expansion project, reaching more than 1,000 patients.

Education & Scholarship Updates: The Foundation held a virtual Scholarship Award Ceremony in September to provide \$130,000 in scholarships to seven schools and colleges of pharmacy for their innovative and diverse educational programs which aim to advance patient care and public health. Additionally, the Foundation is planning to begin recruitment this fall for the 2022 Faculty Scholars class, an 18-month mentorship program that allows selected emerging faculty at U.S. accredited schools and colleges of pharmacy to conduct patient-centered research.

Impact Report: The Foundation's inaugural impact report provides a comprehensive overview of the Foundation's efforts in advancing public health.