

***VERMONT*2009**

Shared Decision Making

Report to the Legislature on **Act 49, Section 4**
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Agency of Human Services

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Introduction

In 2009, the Vermont State Legislature passed Act 49, an act relating to containing health care costs. Act 49, Section 4 reads as follows:

“(a) No later than January 15, 2010, the secretary of administration or designee shall present a plan to the house committees on health care and on human services and the senate committee on health and welfare for a shared decision-making demonstration project to be integrated with the Blueprint for Health. The purpose of shared decision-making shall be to improve communication between patients and health care professionals about equally or more effective treatment options where the determining factor in choosing a treatment is the patient’s preference. The secretary shall consider existing resources and systems in Vermont as well as other shared decision-making models. The plan shall analyze potential barriers to health care professionals participating in shared decision-making, including existing law on informed consent, and recommend solutions or incentives to encourage participation by health care professionals in the demonstration project.

(b) “Shared decision-making” means a process in which the health care professional and patient or patient’s representative discuss the patient’s health condition or disease, the treatment options available for that condition or disease, the benefits and harms of each treatment option, information on the limits of scientific knowledge on patient outcomes from the treatment options, and the patient’s values and preferences for treatment with the use of a patient decision aid.

In accord with Act 49, Section 4, the Vermont Blueprint for Health will commence a one year long shared decision-making pilot in the Barre Hospital Service Area Integrated Pilot on July 1, 2010. The affected population will include 20,000 potential patients in the following primary care practices: The Health Center at Plainfield, Central Vermont

Primary Care, Associates in Family Health, Waterbury Medical Associates, and Dr. Anthony Williams.

The pilot will be focusing on the identified cost and morbidity drivers for the following preference- or behavior-sensitive conditions: congestive heart failure hospital re-admissions, cardiovascular procedures performed, and asthma-related emergency department visits. Recognizing the significant cost associated with musculoskeletal surgical and imaging procedures, these will be addressed, but in an exploratory manner, as the Blueprint does not yet have working relationships with specialists in the field of orthopedics.

The study population will be exposed to a “patient decision aid”, defined as an interactive, written, audio-visual or online tool that provides a balanced presentation of the condition and treatment options, benefits and harms, including a discussion of the limitations of scientific knowledge about outcomes (if appropriate).

At least one of the following nationally certified interventions will be applied:
4PatientCare Unified Communication Solutions, Ottawa Personal Decision Guide, patient decision aids from InformedMedicalDecisions.org, Health Dialogue, and the Cochrane Collaboration.

Evaluation of the pilot will be accomplished in alignment with the overall Blueprint evaluation, including pre and post comparisons of hospital service area-specific incidence and prevalence of the indicators above, patient satisfaction and cost analyses, including application of the Blueprint financial impact model to determine the potential “return on investment”.

References

1. Vermont Blueprint for Health 2008 Annual Report to the Legislature
<http://healthvermont.gov/admin/legislature/documents/BlueprintAnnualReport0109.pdf>
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<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Law%202007/5930-S2.SL.pdf>
3. Washington State Health Care Health Care Authority Demonstration Summary
http://www.hca.wa.gov/documents/brc/stakeholder5930presentation_patientdecisionaids.pdf
4. The Dartmouth Institute for Informed Choice
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~cecs/siipc/>
5. Health Dialog
<http://www.healthdialog.com/Main/Personalhealthcoaching/Shared-Decision-Making>
6. The Cochrane Collection
http://www.cochrane.org/reviews/en/protocol_7E06852C82E26AA200E107D9E7B2BC72.html