

Enabling Quality Improvement for Diabetes Management **(EQUIP-4-DM)**

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Project goal

The goal of the EQUIP-4-DM project is to develop and test a systems-based approach to quality improvement (QI) of the care delivered to diabetic patients in primary care practices. This research is stimulated by expectations for medical care payment reforms that will reward the reporting of quality indicators. We aim to facilitate provider-initiated changes in practice routines that streamline work and improve outcomes, as measured by targeted practice-level quality indicators for DM management that are being used in pay-for-performance programs.

The EQUIP-4-DM approach

A team of community-based practitioners, healthcare administrators and researchers has modified for use in small primary care practices a program for systems-based QI used by Community Health Centers. EQUIP-4-DM incorporates elements of a program designed by Kentucky Ambulatory Network (KAN) and the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians to facilitate QI that relies upon a centralized *change facilitation service* and includes CME credit for QI activities.

Goal for this Pilot Project:

Engage 12 practices to pilot all methodology for the EQUIP-4-DM project and assess the value and feasibility of taking it to full scale.

Pilot Objectives:

- Determine the feasibility of implementing EQUIP-4-DM in small rural primary care practices
- Establish methods for measuring process improvement and clinical outcome that reflect measurements endorsed by the national Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance (AQA) and used by the Community Health Centers
- Explore the potential added utility of EQUIP-4-DM QI procedures in Community Health Centers that have already participated in a QI program for chronic disease management
- Evaluate the functionality of the new UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science and its office of Research Engagement for the Advancement of Community Health (REACH) for partnering with community practices in applied research.