

1. *What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.*

Hunterdon Healthcare System (HHS) was able to complete almost every activity outlined in its original grant proposal, with the exception of developing a smoking cessation residency curriculum. The delay in this activity is attributable primarily to staffing shortages at Phillips Barber Family Health Center, one of two of HHS' residency practices. Cindy Barter, MD, Resident Faculty Member, participated in the project by earning her CTTS and has delivered a four-hour Motivational Interviewing strategies/training to the Residency physicians, and is in the process of developing an embedded, evidence-based tobacco treatment curriculum. A formal program is anticipated by June 2015. Initially it was estimated that 28 ExPERT staff trainings would be held during the grant period, throughout Hunterdon Healthcare. To date, the ExPERT team has conducted 21 sessions, including those awarding 0.5 contact hours to nursing. In addition, monthly trainings have been implemented within the Staff Development department, which capture new Nursing and Patient Care Assistant employees during orientation.

2. *Briefly tell us about any other unexpected issues, concerns or successes you have had during this reporting period.*

The ExPERT Tobacco Cessation Program was very favorably accepted by HHS' staff and leadership, and enjoyed a number of successes. An ExPERT Committee was formed upon commencement of the grant period, with meetings held monthly for staff participating directly in the project. Plans exist to maintain this committee beyond the grant period, by continuing to meet, recruit new members, and continually seek ways to improve tobacco cessation programs. A Population Health sub-committee has also been formed to ensure community needs are addressed. Staff were very engaged in the trainings provided through the grant and 12 staff members representing a range of disciplines received a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist (CTTS) certification. Many have also been re-certified or are working towards it. These CTTS have since gone on to deliver trainings to their colleagues on how to use the 5As to identify and treat tobacco dependent patients. A total of 21 internal trainings were held within various departments throughout the system, which collectively were attended by 170+ staff (consisting of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, nursing students and medical assistants). Departments receiving trainings included the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center (HRCC), Hunterdon Behavioral Health, Hunterdon Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation, Inpatient Pharmacy, the Residency Program, and Hunterdon Healthcare Partners.

Several educational programs focused on tobacco treatment/cessation, including (2) Grand Rounds presented by smoking cessation experts Dr. Jill Williams and Dr. Michael Steinberg. A Pfizer "Advise the Quit" educational program was presented to 70 attendees, 34 of whom are prescribing physicians. A continued relationship with Mom's Quit Connection also exists, and annual trainings will continue.

The ExPERT training manual, created by Maria Feo, is a 43 page, evidence-based, comprehensive guide to tobacco treatment for all healthcare providers. Over 96 manuals have been distributed throughout HHS, and will continue to be an essential resource, and available electronically for all healthcare providers.

Beyond training, CTTS members of the ExPERT Committee have begun to develop workflows to incorporate tobacco cessation treatment as a part of regular patient treatment protocols.

Thom Kim Nguyen, Pharm.D, BCPS, CTTS has established a referral program within Cornerstone Family Practice, one of HHS' primary care practices, in which the primary care physicians refer tobacco dependent patients to her for FDA approved treatments and motivational counseling.

Mary Vecchio, MSN, RN, APN,C, OCN, CTTS has developed a tobacco cessation support workflow within HRCC and also updated educational materials and resources available to HRCC staff within HHS' electronic health record system, NextGen. Ms. Vecchio also incorporated tobacco cessation strategies into a Grand Rounds presentation she made on Lung Cancer Screening (Please see submitted publications link in Dropbox).

Elizabeth Manner, LCSW has successfully incorporated smoking cessation information into psychoeducational groups within Hunterdon Behavioral Health's Intensive Outpatient and Acute Addictions Intervention Programs.

Our (4) MHCC (Medical Home Care Coordinators) who have obtained their CTTS, have conducted 87 face-to-face counseling visits, and have provided self-management, support and family education to over 67 patients.

In addition, HHS contributed significant in-kind contributions toward the project in the form of staff time.

A recent data analysis shows that the grant activities have resulted in a significant increase in patients who have received tobacco treatment cessation counseling with their medical care. The analysis looked at unique, established patients age 18 and above at 10 primary care sites (seen at least 2 times within 2 years) who had a tobacco cessation counseling code (99406, 99407, G0436, G0437) in their EHR as of December 31st of the reporting year. The total number of patients who received counseling in the baseline year (2012) was 81. In 2013 there was a 382% increase over the baseline, with 391 patients receiving counseling. In 2014 there was a 333% increase over the baseline, with 351 patients receiving counseling. The slight drop in 2014 may be attributable to a NextGen 8.3 upgrade and resulting changes in the location of the tobacco cessation documentation. HHS will continue to collect and analyze this data to track increases in subsequent years.

Challenges experienced during the grant implementation included:

- Post discharge follow-up is a challenge as it can be difficult. Reach patients via phone, ensuring that they have followed up with a PCP regarding tobacco cessation. More targeted outreach and engagement strategies need to be tested on this population
- Reimbursement continues to be a challenge as smoking cessation consults done by nurses cannot be reimbursed. HHS has been providing smoking cessation consults free of charge, but continues to talk with health plans about the feasibility of covering this valuable service in the future.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell SCLC or Pfizer?

Hunterdon Healthcare System is grateful to Pfizer and SCLC for the funding and technical assistance support that has been provided in support of the EXPERT Tobacco Cessation Program. The support provided has helped HHS to begin building a solid tobacco cessation counseling and educational infrastructure that has laid the groundwork for ultimate compliance with The Joint Commission's Tobacco Treatment Measures Set.