Invitation to Participate in Primary Care Research Project

Overview: Our team is submitting a research proposal to evaluate the impact of a shared consumer-clinician tool to support value-based conversations in primary care visits. We hypothesize that the quality of health care can be improved by providing a common “playing field” where both patient and clinician learn together and independently about unbiased, evidence-based, patient-centered treatment. We are seeking partner organizations to participate in this study.

TandemHealth tool: Our web and app-based tool is intended for use before, during, and after a clinical encounter—by consumers and clinicians alike—with clear, evidence-based approaches for common medical conditions. The consumer or clinician point of view can be viewed throughout the users’ experience. Our project name comes from an intentional focus on the mutual patient-clinician experience and shared decision-making.

Content is created by a dedicated team of physicians and other experts at the National Physician Alliance and Consumer Reports. We offer independent, trusted data regarding treatment options presented in a user-friendly format with deliberate attention to design and the pace of clinical care. Importantly, we accept no funding from industry.

Participating clinical sites: Primary care partners should be willing to:
- Facilitate access to clinicians for brief teaching about the tool
- Ensure the tool is accessible in the primary care offices
- Encourage participating clinicians to complete pre and post intervention surveys—conducted by the research team—to evaluate the impact of the tool on decision-making
- Support outreach to patients for pre and post intervention surveys—conducted by the research team—to evaluate the impact of the tool on decision-making

We are particularly interested in partner sites that are able to provide additional information from electronic medical records, including prescribing and ordering decisions and text of visit notes for analysis, but this is not a requirement.

Research team: Our collaborative team includes the National Physicians Alliance, Consumer Reports, TandemHealth, and the National Resource Center for Academic Detailing at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Timeline: The proposal is due on Wednesday August 3rd. If you are interested in participating as a partner please reply via email by July 14th.

If we are approved to proceed, there will be up to a year of preparation time, including design and content updates, before the intervention period begins. So we would not be requesting access to practices or primary care providers until late 2017 or early 2018.