

Medical Home

NEWS

Study Calls For More Medical Homes To Serve Latinos

Promotores Work Well To Place Households

By Ron Shinkman

A new study of the state of Latino healthcare in the United States paints a picture of lack of routine access to primary and other sources of care. One of the solutions proposed: More patient-centered medical homes aimed specifically at the Latino community.

That's one of the conclusions of a new wide-ranging research review by Salud America!, a research organization connected with the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The study raised concerns about the fact that more than 15 percent of the nation's Latinos lack health insurance versus the nationwide average of 6.6 percent. That's dropped significantly compared to the pre-ACA era, when the uninsured rate in the Latino community topped 26 percent.

Latino children are also more likely to be at an unhealthy weight compared to African-Americans and whites, suggesting the potential for chronic medical conditions. And more than half of Latino adults lack basic health literacy.

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To Integrate Mental Health Into Medical Homes, New Payment Models Should Be Considered

Here's a look at some alternatives to the traditional fee-for-service model

By Stephen P. Melek, Roger Kathol, Melinda M. Davis, et al.

Never before in our nation's history has there been such a large-scale attempt to change clinical health care delivery, while placing the patient in the forefront of redesign efforts. The dominant health policy of the land, the "Triple Aim," challenges clinicians, practices/health system leaders, and state officials to consider how to reorganize healthcare delivery to improve outcomes, decrease cost, and enhance the patient experience.

This challenge could not come at a more appropriate time in the United States. U.S. health care costs are between \$2.8–\$2.9 trillion annually and account for nearly 18% of the gross domestic product; yet, this level of spending is not associated with higher performance outcomes or quality. According to the World Health Organization, the United States ranks 37th in the world in healthcare quality.

While some of these issues may improve subsequent to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, true transformation requires that health care stakeholders in the United States address these issues of cost and quality.

Creating a more efficient and effective healthcare delivery system, with primary care at the base, is central to helping contain costs and improve outcomes. More than 200 domestic and international studies document the critical role primary care plays in controlling healthcare costs and ensuring quality. In the United States, primary care is currently undergoing a substantial redesign through implementation of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH).

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