Sponsored Content: Eliminate the silos that inhibit evidence-based practice improvements

Look for a cohesive solution offering history, collaboration, and the right evidence.

With the ever-stronger focus on quality patient care and how hospitals or health systems administer it, professional staff must use a combination of its clinical expertise, patient values, and the best research evidence to drive improvement. They're all on the same page when it comes to wanting the facility to be the best place to receive and administer care. But despite that common goal, how often does the left hand know what the right hand is doing? When each department or quality improvement team functions in a vacuum, it's much more difficult for the entire organization to learn and improve. They need a single location where everyone can see the right evidence and apply it appropriately without starting from scratch.

Information silos are the norm — but shouldn't be

Generally, employees involved in evidence-based practice are well aware that they are functioning in an insulated environment. They may be working in a single department on one floor in one building of a large complex, on a project relevant only to that environment. They also recognize that they have little or no awareness of the hospital's other EBP efforts.

Why don't they know the history? Because it takes time and more than a bit of detective work to track down the last person knowledgeable about a related project and its results in the hospital. Teams often find it easier and less cumbersome to just start over between personnel turnover and information scattered in multiple locations.

Many quality improvement chiefs and C-suite executives are also aware of the information silos. They recognize that it actually requires all disciplines and departments to work together to implement and sustain most improvements.

Efforts to break down silos limited so far

Hospitals don't purposely choose siloed EBP; many do make efforts to share information. Spreadsheets, a channel in Microsoft Teams, and group meetings are just some methods for reducing or eliminating the lack of communication. But these tactics often lead to delays, and the shared information is not always evidence-based, detailed, or current enough to successfully implement EBP.

Implementation of evidence-based practice made easier

So how do you improve the quality of evidence-based practice? First, the CEO and executive team must promote a culture of change and value continuous quality improvement (CQI). It's the best way to increase influencer and stakeholder buy-in and drive advancements. Change management also takes communication, education, monitoring, and continued follow-up. If those in the C-suite aren't champions of change, the hospital's values will reflect that, and the silos will remain.

Next, find a single platform that establishes and coordinates EBP workflows — allowing everyone to see and learn from what has happened in the past, what's being done now, and what is planned for the future. With templates that all participants can easily access and use, it will drive a cohesive process previously unavailable to hospitals and health systems.

What else do hospitals need? More resources. This system provides historical data, the latest applicable research, and collaboration capabilities previously unavailable to quality improvement teams. It automatically does what employees once struggled to do by hand with no time and little context. Most importantly, it eliminates unnecessary duplication of effort.

Besides identifying, organizing, and filtering the evidence, our new application helps teams appraise it, collaboratively, and determine whether the findings support the project's objective by identifying critical takeaways. From dashboards offering real-time visibility to an automated assembly of evidence tables and a summary of findings, the right project management solution supports EBP implementation that benefits all stakeholders.

About the solution

Ovid Synthesis Clinical Evidence Manager is a cloud-based workflow management solution that offers healthcare organizations a unique, centralized dashboard view of all quality improvement (QI) research projects for easier tracking and collaboration among teams to ensure new clinical practice improvements are based on the latest medical evidence.

"Evidence-based research initiatives at health systems hold the key to better patient outcomes and financial performance, but these programs are time-intensive, making

it difficult to efficiently surface and implement new evidence into clinical practice," said Vikram Savkar, Senior Vice President & General Manager, Medicine Segment, Health Learning, Research & Practice business at Wolters Kluwer.

"In the wake of a pandemic that laid bare the weaknesses of our current delivery system, we are bringing to market an important evidence-based practice (EBP) workflow solution that aims to improve the cycle between identification of clinical problems and implementation of clinical solutions based on the evidence."

Ovid Synthesis Clinical Evidence Manager was developed in collaboration with Duke Health and the West Virginia University Health System (WVU Medicine), among other leading healthcare institutions. The expert solution streamlines the literature review and evidence appraisal process with artificial intelligence (AI), increases communication and collaboration among departments, and facilitates decisions on implementation. The solution supports a range of stakeholders with varying levels of research experience through easy-to-use tools and features including:

- Executive and project level dashboards provide real-time visibility into projects across an institution
- Standardized workflows with configurable templates to reflect organizational best practices
- Integrated literature search directly within the system eliminates toggling between windows
- Collaboration tools to promote team member interaction across sites help to cut costs and timelines
- Built-in literature appraisal with configurable appraisal forms and AI-driven features to increase process efficiency
- Automatic document generation of project findings in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint formats, including dynamically generated evidence tables

Learn more about Ovid Synthesis here or scan QR code.