OneCare Vermont Care Coordination Toolkit

Welcome to the OneCare Vermont Care Coordination Toolkit. This Toolkit, developed by OneCare Vermont, is designed to assist health service areas to identify and implement a care coordination program for complex patients with multiple chronic conditions, or to integrate additional elements of care coordination best practices into existing programs and services.

The Toolkit is made up of several modules with concentrations in different aspects of the care coordination process, as defined and outlined by the Commission for Case Management Body of Knowledge, to help you build your programs using endorsed processes and tools that care coordinators in the industry use to support population management activities in the practice setting.

We hope that this toolkit will serve as a resource for your teams, evolving with your own processes, and a mechanism for sharing with each other your learnings, best practices, tools, resources, recommendations for further review, and feedback that is essential to creating and sustaining a culture of cross-organizational, cross-continuum learning. If you have questions or comments regarding this resource please contact OneCare Vermont Operations Staff via email at OneCareOperations@uvmhealth.org or telephone (802) 847-7220 and toll free 1-877-644-7176.

A special thank you to the following community partners for their contribution(s) to this toolkit: The Blueprint for Health, The California Quality Collaborative (Humbolt, Memorial Care), The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Hagan Rinehart and Connolly Pediatrics, North Carolina Community Care, the Springfield Community Health Team, The Vermont Chronic Care Initiative, and The Vermont Integrated Communities Care Management Learning Collaborative communities.

“OneCare Vermont would also like to thank The University of Vermont Medical Center for its leadership to improve the health of the people in the communities we serve by integrating patient care, education and research in a caring environment, as well as the James M. Jeffords Institute for Quality and Operational Effectiveness at The University of Vermont Medical Center for their dedication to supporting the organization's efforts to achieve the development of an Integrated Delivery System which provides high value health care to the communities we serve.”
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Introduction to Care Coordination

- **Purpose:** Complex individuals with multiple chronic conditions, limited functional status, and/or psychosocial challenges are vulnerable and more likely to experience adverse events and poor health outcomes. Complex patients also account for a disproportionate share of health care costs and utilization of the health care system. An opportunity exists to increase quality, decrease costs, and improve patient and provider experience of care for the highest health service utilizers by targeting high-risk Medicare, Medicaid, and commercially-covered beneficiaries who are attributed to providers in the OneCare Vermont network with appropriate care coordination services. The top 5% of utilizers account for approximately 32% of total medical costs. Reduction of waste in that 5% of utilizers could affect total medical costs up to 20% or 27 million dollars. As the OneCare Vermont network moves towards a capitated health system, decreasing costs for the highest utilizers will lead to a more financially sustainable health care system.

- **Statement:** Care coordination activities promote a holistic and patient centered approach to ensure that a patient’s needs and goals are understood and shared among providers, patients and families to improve quality of care, patient care experience and patient engagement in care plan/treatment plan goals as a patient interacts with health providers and settings.

In the OneCare Vermont (OCV) clinical model, patients are at the center of all care coordination activities. Attributes of patient (person) centered care include:

- Whole person care
- Quality care
- Coordination and communication
- Support and empowerment

**Critical Elements of a Successful Care Coordination Programs:**

- Patients’ connection to a regular source of primary care (i.e. PCMH, FQHC)
- One-to-one relationships between patients and trained care coordinators with their own patient panel
- Use of standardized assessment tools in building shared care plans
- Completion of a face to face visit within one month of engagement (enrollment)
• Use of motivational, open interviewing style to gather patient information and understand barriers from the patient view
• Two way communication between the care coordinator and patient at least monthly
• Shared action plans developed in partnership with patients and at least one active patient-defined goal per year
• Warm handoffs to support services tailored to the patient’s needs e.g. transportation, food banks and other community services.
• Activities aim to avoid/redirect emergency department visits to more appropriate resources

Goals and Objectives of Care Coordination Activities:
• Improve access to needed services
• Educate patients on the benefits of a medical home and the best use of the health care delivery system
• Advocate on behalf of the patient and family
• Apply best practices for disease management initiatives
• Negotiate appropriate behaviors and set goals with patients to achieve best outcomes
• Provide education, support and resources tailored to the individual’s need
• Monitor patient compliance and outcomes and follow up as needed
• Redirect repeat emergency department (ED) patients to appropriate service delivery settings
• Collaborate with other service providers
• Participate in the PCP-led health care team
• Coordinate services across providers and delivery settings
• Meet care and service requirements for specific populations
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Articles and Resources:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, The Roles of Patient Centered Medical Homes and Accountable Care Organizations in Coordinating Patient Care (Dec., 2010)

http://pcmh.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/Roles%20of%20PCMH%20And%20ACOs%20in%20Coordinating%20Patient%20Care.pdf

Arnold Milstein and Elizabeth Gilbertson, American Medical Home Runs”, Health Affairs (Sept-Oct., 2009)

http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/28/5/1317.short


http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/01/24/110124fa_fact_gawande

Coordination Care for Adults with Complex Care Needs in the Patient-Centered Medical Home: Challenges and Solutions, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (2012)


Randall Brown, The Promise of Care Coordination: Models that Decrease Hospitalizations and Improve Outcomes for Medicare Beneficiaries with Chronic Conditions (March, 2009)

http://www.champ-program.org/static/BROWN%20FULL%20REPORT%203%202009v2_ah2.pdf


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Change Ideas for Targeted Care Coordination

Introduction to the Care Coordinator Roles: As complexity of care increases, and the demand for accountability grows within new models of care, the function of care coordination is increasing in importance. Care coordinators at the health service area (HSA) level play a crucial role in health care delivery improvement programs, and bring immense value to the medical home and community. The roles, though, will look different across settings and providers. According to The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) “Care coordination means different things to different people; no consensus definition has fully evolved”.  


At the practice level, the role(s) may depend on the payment model and whether care coordination will be reimbursed as its own function under the local model. Without payment linked to care coordination functions, it is often difficult for clinical practices to invest in a dedicated position. In many instances, case management is being referred to by other terms, such as care coordinators, patient navigators, or health coaches. While there may be an opportunity to increase knowledge and awareness to create competency in case management, there is also an opportunity to take a leadership role in developing new care models in a rapidly changing landscape, and to fulfill loosely defined care coordination functions within the new models. Please see below for a brief description of some of the more common roles encountered in today’s care coordination landscape:

- **Case Manager:** Individual assigned to the at-risk, complex, and/or chronic disease patient populations to conduct not only care coordination activities, but also assessments, care planning, care transitions and prevention activities for at-risk, complex, and chronic disease patients. *The Commission for Case Manager Certification* is the first and largest nationally accredited organization that certifies case managers. Candidates must hold a current, active, and unrestricted licensure or certification in a health or human services discipline that within its scope of practice allows the professional to conduct an assessment independently. License must be active through the last date of test administration; or Baccalaureate or graduate degree in social work, nursing, or another health or human services field that promotes the physical, psychosocial, and/or vocational well-being of the persons being served (*CMSA Standards of Practice for Case Management*). *The Commission* promotes a common body of knowledge and skills within the field of practice. (Please note: Individuals in other roles may or may not have healthcare backgrounds, licensure, or certification).
• **Care Coordinator**: Individual who typically assumes the role of assuring that the patient’s care plan activities are efficiently completed. Duties might include pre-visit communication with the patient, making referral appointments, and follow up phone calls for test results or medical equipment procurement.

• **Community Health Worker (CHW)**: A frontline health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has a close understanding of the community served. This relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison between the community and health/social services with an emphasis on cultural competence of service delivery.

• **Patient Navigator**: A member of the healthcare team who helps patients “navigate” the healthcare system and get timely care, coordinate patient care, connect patients with resources, and helps patients understand the healthcare system.

• **Health Coach**: An individual who helps patients gain the knowledge, skills, tools and confidence to become active participants in their care so that they can reach their self-identified health goals.

For more information about the role of lead care coordinator in the state of Vermont, watch this video: "Role of the Lead Care Coordinator"

The challenge for health care organizations in implementation of these new care delivery models is who they will select to provide care coordination (e.g., unlicensed personnel, registered nurses, social workers) and how they will educate, train and develop those care coordinators to fulfill all of the corresponding roles and functions.

The Vermont Health Care Innovation Project (VHCIP) is currently offering a six-day training series for front-line care coordinators, held between March and December of 2016. This is a free six-day course designed for a variety of staff members from health and community service organizations who provide care coordination services. It is appropriate for nurses, social workers, medical assistants, community health workers, case managers, educators, health coaches, and other staff and their supervisors working in team-based care environments. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend all six days of core training; each training event will be offered in multiple locations throughout the State. For a complete schedule of training events, please click on this link: http://healthcareinnovation.vermont.gov/areas/practice-transformation/projects/core-competency-training

**Small Tests of Change**: The change ideas below will provide examples of the processes and tools that care coordinators can use to support population management activities at the practice setting. The overall process is iterative and cyclical, its phases being revisited as necessary until the desired outcome is achieved. Care Coordination Change Package 2.0.pdf
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Care Coordination Process - Stratifying Risk

Due to the size and complexity of the OneCare network’s attributed population, it is important to use tools and processes that stratify the population to enable prioritization of care coordination activities and interventions. Within our network, the entire population is grouped into high-risk and high-cost categories based on Medicare, Medicaid, and Commercial historical claims data depending on the program(s) your organization is enrolled in. The OCV analytics team produces quarterly Beneficiary Detail Reports with more than 90 data elements providing information on beneficiaries regarding cost, utilization and diagnosis data to help define a sub-set of the population for further screening based on your organization’s priority area(s), designating the top five percent as the highest priority. The goal is to stratify the population and identify patients that will benefit from the targeted care coordination interventions.

The Stratifying Risk phase involves the classification of a client into one of four population health risk categories – healthy/well majority, early onset/stable chronic illness, full onset chronic illness (OCV risk rank 85-94), and complex/high cost (OCV risk rank 95+) – in order to determine the appropriate level of intervention based on the patient’s situation and interests. This classification allows the implementation of targeted risk category-based interventions and treatments that enhance patient outcomes and experience.

OneCare stratifies risk in an automated fashion using decision support systems and based on claims data, prior to assessing using appropriate decision support systems.

Health Catalyst, OneCare Vermont’s new informatics platform, provides OCV with a data warehouse to combine claims data from Medicare, Medicaid, and Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) with clinical data from the Vermont Health Information Exchange (VITL).

The Patient Stratification application will supply OCV with several patient risk models including CMS-HCC, HHS-HCC, Charlson-Deyo, and Johns Hopkins’ ACG. This will allow OCV to track and trend patients and population risk over time, identify and fully characterize high-risk patients and population segments, identify rising-risk patients, and use risk scores to effectively predict cost and utilization. The risk scores will also be used for risk adjustment of cost measures, and many other metrics that are typically presented with adjustment for risk. In addition, the data and information generated by the apps will ultimately be used by OCV to evaluate provider performance, identify drivers of high cost so that cost reduction plans may be implemented, and supply the information for the care coordination program, Care Navigator, in order to improve quality of care and patient outcomes.
Care Coordination Process - Screening

The Screening phase focuses on the review of key information related to an individual’s health situation in order to identify the need for health and social services. The care coordinator’s objective in screening is to determine if a client would benefit from such services.

In such situations, a care coordinator or other identified individual representing the primary care practice (if applicable) reviews the automatically generated risk classifications and gathers key information from the medical record-to the extent possible-relevant to the “4 Domains:” Social Support, Medical Neighborhood, Self-Management and Mental Health, and Medical Status and Health Trajectory.

As an additional step, it may be helpful to use the following questions as needed to engage clinicians in a conversation about patient identification and engagement:

“This is a patient who had high intensity health care 3 months ago. I need to find out if this is someone who needs care coordination and if they might engage with my outreach.

• Would you be surprised if this patient were hospitalized or had an ER visit in the next 6 months? Why or why not?
- Do you feel that, with your backing, this patient will engage in care coordination (assuming they are not already in it)? What might help them engage?
- Given your knowledge of this patient longitudinally, what do you think is the most critical area to focus on? (Medical: what? Social: what? Financial? Behavioral Health? Other?)

Screening promotes early intervention and the achievement of desired outcomes. For complex patients, the likelihood of involvement with multiple agencies performing a “care coordination” function is high, which highlights the need for effective documentation and communication as possible goals are developed, and further assessment and interventions are explored.

Tools & Resources:

- Care Coordinator to PCP Conversation Tool.pdf (DHMC)
- Root Cause Analysis (RCA) Worksheet.pdf
- Chart Review Tool.pdf
- Domains Scoring Tool (California Quality Collaborative).pdf

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Care Coordination Process - Assessment & Planning

OneCare Vermont works with network participants to establish effective methods of identifying the beneficiaries most likely to benefit from care coordination interventions. Once identified, it is recommended that recipients who agree to participate are given a comprehensive health assessment, which documents conditions and problems, interventions, goals and other care coordination activities. Identifying the people most likely to be impacted by the care coordination services you provide is an ongoing process, likely to require many tests of change. Individuals engaged in care coordination will vary by the level of intensity required to provide effective services. Patients may also be deferred from care
coordination for a variety of reasons: refusal to participate; because their conditions are already managed optimally; or because interventions are not likely to impact their health outcome or quality of life (e.g., a patient with end-stage renal disease).

The Assessing phase involves the collection of information about a client's situation similar to those reviewed during screening, however to greater depth.

The care coordinator has two primary objectives while assessing:

- Identifying the client's key problems to be addressed, as well as individual needs and interests.
- Developing a comprehensive case management plan of care that addresses these problems and needs.

Additionally, the care coordinator seeks to confirm or update the client’s risk category based on the information gathered. Using standardized assessment tools and checklists, the care coordinator engages the patient through face-to-face or telephonic outreach, and gathers information directly from the patient/caregiver/support system, as well as the clinicians involved in the patient’s care.

A comprehensive plan of care for an individual client describes:

- The client’s problems, needs, and desires, as determined from the findings of the client’s assessment.
- The strategies, such as treatments and interventions, to be instituted to address the client’s problems and needs.
- The measurable goals — including specific outcomes — to be achieved to demonstrate resolution of the client’s problems and needs, the time frame(s) for achieving them, the resources available and to be used to realize the outcomes, and the desires/motivation of the client that may have an impact on the plan.

The care plan is then to be shared with the patient, family/caregiver, primary care provider(s), and among organizations involved in care delivery to facilitate more effective cross continuum team-based interventions.
Tools & Resources:

“Camden Cards” (The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers)

- Backwards Planning User Guide.pdf
- Backwards Plan Board.pdf
- Domain Cards with Pictures.pdf

ECO Map.pptx (Hagan, Rinehart & Connolly Pediatrics)

ECOMAP Instructions.pdf

ECO-Map Template-Example.pdf (Hagan, Rinehart & Connolly Pediatrics)

Goals and Barriers Guidelines.pdf (DHMC)

Video: Identify a Person's Goals

Needs Assessment Tool (North Carolina Community Care):


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Care Coordination Process - Implementation and Follow up Activities

The implementing phase centers on the execution of the specific care plan activities and interventions that are necessary for accomplishing the goals set forth by the patient and care team.

Care Coordination in primary care involves deliberately organizing patient care activities and sharing information among all of the participants concerned with an individual’s care to achieve safer and more effective care. Examples of specific care coordination activities include
establishing accountability and agreeing upon responsibilities, communication, assistance with transitions of care, assessment of patient goals, creating a proactive care plan and supporting the patient’s self-management goals by linking them to community resources and working to align resources with the patient needs.

During this phase, the care coordinator organizes, secures, integrates, and modifies (as needed) the services and resources necessary to meet the patient’s needs and interests. The care coordinator shares information on an ongoing basis with the patient and the patient’s support system, the healthcare providers/clinicians, the insurance company/payer, and community-based agencies.

The Following-Up phase focuses on the review, evaluation, monitoring, and reassessment of a patient’s health condition, needs, ability for self-care, knowledge of condition and treatment regimen, and outcomes of the implemented treatments and interventions. The care coordinator’s primary objective is to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of the care plan and its effect on the patient’s health condition and outcomes.

During this phase, the care coordinator gathers sufficient information from all relevant sources, shares information with the patient, healthcare providers, and others as appropriate, and documents in the patient’s health record the findings, modifications made to the care plan, and recommendations to proceed.

Care coordinators are encouraged to maintain an accurate assessment and regularly review goals, process and outcomes data to identify barriers, stimulate improvement, and track progress towards the achievement of jointly established goals. This information is then used to adjust initiatives and update the care plan and case status accordingly.

**Tools & Resources:**

- Shared Care Plan Example 1.pdf
- Shared Care Plan Example 2.pdf
- Care Conference Process Flow.pdf
- Case conference Agenda Template (Memorial Care):
  
  http://www.calquality.org/storage/documents/meteor/2.8.1VirtualCaseConferenceAgendaSample.pdf
Video: The Shared Care Conference

Client Perception of Care Questionnaire related reading (CPCQ):


**Patient Action Plans** (Vermont Chronic Care Initiative):

- VDH Asthma Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI CHF Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI COPD Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI CHF Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI COPD Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI Diabetes Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI Healthy Living Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI High BP Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI High Cholesterol Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI Kidney Disease Action Plan.pdf
- VCCI Mental Health Action Plan.pdf

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**Care Coordination Process - Transitional Care & Post Transition Communication**

There is increasing national awareness of medical errors and quality deficiencies that occur during transitions in care. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) is one nationally-recognized organization that has increased its focus on coordination of care
after hospitalization. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) is also addressing strategies that may improve outcomes for patients as they transition from one setting to another, and advocates health care models that are patient-centric and collaborative.

The Transitioning phase focuses on moving a patient across the health services continuum or levels of care depending on the patient’s health condition and the needed services/resources. In order to maintain continuity of care, this phase’s activities entail the complete execution of the patient’s transition through communication with key individuals (including sharing of necessary information) at the next level of care or setting, the patient, caregiver and/or social support system, and members of the healthcare team.

During this phase, the case manager prepares the patient and the patient’s support system either for discharge from the current care setting/facility to home or for transfer to another healthcare facility or a community-based clinician for further care, educates the patient about post-transition care and needed follow-up, summarizes what happened during an episode of care, secures durable medical equipment (e.g., glucose meter, scale, walker) and transportation services (if needed), and communicates these to the patient, to the patient’s caregiver, and to key individuals at the receiving facility or home care agency (if applicable) or those individuals assuming responsibility for the patient’s care.

Three key focus areas of review and teach back for the patient and/or patient’s support system are:
   1. Medication self-management: the patient and/or patient’s support system are knowledgeable about medications and have a system to manage medication.
   2. Primary care and specialist follow-up: the patient and/or support system completes a follow-up visit with their physician of specialist physician within a week of discharge.
   3. Knowledge of red flags: the patient and/or support system are knowledgeable about indications that their condition is worsening and how to respond.

The Communicating Post Transition phase involves communicating with a patient/support system for the purpose of checking on how things are going post transition from an episode of care, including the patient’s comfort with self-care, medications intake, availability of post-transition services (e.g., home health services), and presence of any issues or concerns.

The care coordinator also follows up on issues and problems identified and seek resolution on these issues. Depending on the issue or concern identified, the care coordinator may engage other healthcare professionals to reach a resolution.

**Articles, Tools & Resources:**

Care Transitions Measure (CTM-15/CTM-3):

https://www.google.com/search?q=CTM-15%2FCTM-3&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8
CMS Partnership for Patients:


The Post-Hospital Follow-Up Visit: A Physician Checklist to Reduce Readmissions:

http://www.chcf.org/~/media/MEDIA%20LIBRARY%20Files/PDF/PDF%20P/PDF%20PostHospitalFollowUpVisit.pdf

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**Care Coordination Process - Evaluation Phase**

At the patient level, the Evaluating phase calls for measuring the results of implementing the care plan (e.g., the objectives, goals, treatments and interventions, and return on investment). Evaluation may focus on several types of outcomes of care, including: clinical, financial, quality of life, experience and satisfaction, physical functioning, psychosocial, emotional, self-care coordination ability, and knowledge of health condition and plan of care.

The OCV analytics team will produce a high-risk report quarterly report by HSA with the aim of completing the initial feedback loop to organizations for the review of high cost, high needs patients. The total number of high-risk patients appropriate for, engaged in, pending and referred to care coordination services will be reported.
Motivational Interviewing: is a method that works on facilitating and engaging motivation within the client in order to affect behavior change. Using a collaborative communication style that improves understanding of the patient’s concerns, strengths and preferences, MI enhances efforts by the care coordinator to engage, educate, and empower self-care coordination behaviors. The MI model offers professionals tools to generate change and to support patients in informed decision making.

http://www.motivationalinterviewing.org

Advanced health care planning: is an important aspect of developing pathways of care that ensure provision of high quality care while avoiding unnecessary and unwanted care in the final phases of life for people living with advanced chronic disease. By introducing elements of advanced care planning earlier in the course of illness, we may see improved quality of life, health system efficiency and health resource use. Such results are achieved by coordinating care and facilitating communication between patients, families and providers; by enhancing patients’ sense of personal control; and by assisting patients with advanced care planning and decision-making that reflected their personal values and preferences.

http://healthvermont.gov/regs/ad/dnr_colst_instructions.pdf
http://www.starttheconversationvt.org/assets/files/STC_conversation_kit/STC_Booklet.pdf
http://www.vtethicsnetwork.org/decisionsarticles.html
**Trauma-Informed Care:** is a trauma-informed approach that can be implemented in any type of service setting or organization. Realizing the connections between adverse childhood events and health and social problems patients face later in life is likely to improve efforts towards prevention and recovery, and resilience for those individuals and families impacted by trauma. Consistent with SAMHSA’s definition of recovery, services and supports that are trauma-informed build on the best evidence available and consumer and family engagement, empowerment, and collaboration.

According to SAMHSA’s concept of a trauma-informed approach, “A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed:

1. Realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;
2. Recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
3. Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.”

*Springfield Ace’s Workgroup Resource Packet.pdf*