

## Hawai'i Health Partners News

October 2014

### Bringing quality measures in line with national standards

*Dale Glenn, MD, Medical Director*

Last year, two landmark reviews of medical evidence were published related to vascular disease. The American Heart Association released new cholesterol treatment guidelines and The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published the JNC 8 report on guidelines for the management of high blood pressure in adults.

Hawai'i Health Partners will always strive to adopt and follow the best available medical evidence. Working with other community leaders, Hawai'i Health Partners leadership brought it to HMSA's attention that HMSA's current quality program has not adopted these new guidelines.

The cholesterol guidelines noted that patients already on a statin do not need to have their cholesterol checked regularly because the beneficial effects of statins are not tied to a target lab value (e.g., LDL). The guidelines advise assessing other factors in addition to blood cholesterol to gauge cardiovascular risk, such as age, gender, race, smoking status, blood pressure and whether it's being treated, and whether a person has diabetes. It is also suggested that healthcare providers may want to consider other factors, including family history.

The JNC 8 guidelines use age-based blood pressure treatment thresholds. For patients older than 60, it is

recommended that they begin medication if their blood pressure hits 150/90. For patients younger than 60, the treatment threshold is a blood pressure greater than or equal to 140/90.

Previous JNC guidelines classified hypertension as a blood pressure of 140/90 or higher in adults regardless of age.

After a review of the literature, HMSA agreed that the new guidelines make sense and are changing the related quality measures in the HMSA Ambulatory Quality Program. Within the HHP community that uses Epic, Epic health maintenance screens will no longer monitor cholesterol levels as a treatment goal and will employ the new treatment thresholds for patients without diabetes or heart disease over 60 at 149/89.

For more details on the cholesterol guidelines, visit the American Heart Association's website at [http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/Understanding-the-New-Prevention-Guidelines/UCM\\_458155\\_Article.jsp](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/Understanding-the-New-Prevention-Guidelines/UCM_458155_Article.jsp).

For more information on the JNC 8 guidelines, visit the JAMA website for the complete report from the Joint National Committee at <http://jnc8.jamanetwork.com/>.



### BMI values loaded to Cozeva

Building an ACO is an interesting process of creating new partnerships between those who provide care, those who receive care and those who pay for care. In an effort to reduce physician workload and to help HMSA receive the data they need, our Population Health Services team has been working hard to create bridges between HMSA's Cozeva data tool and our EPIC EHR, which is used by many Hawai'i Health Partners participating providers. Without this effort, physicians and staff would have been required to manually enter every Body Mass Index (BMI) value at every appointment into HMSA's computers.

This is just one of the many support services HHP provides to our members to make care delivery easier for both patients and physicians. The team just completed a data upload of more than 9,800 values for the BMI Assessment measure for adults, which raised the BMI compliance score for our physicians by more than 20 percent. Similar efforts are underway to reduce the need to type in blood pressure measurements. Our team continues to look at other opportunities to make work easier and ensure patients get the very best care.

## Inaugural membership meetings held on O'ahu and Kaua'i

More than 200 members attended the Hawai'i Health Partners inaugural membership meetings held on O'ahu and Kaua'i in August. Those who attended enjoyed the opportunity to network with colleagues and learn more about what HHP is doing in order to establish itself as a leader in care coordination, bring value to patients, and create an exceptional physician experience.

HHP Executive Director Gerard Livaudais, MD, provided an overview of the environment for accountable care organizations, how the HHP model works, and the current goals for HHP. HHP Medical Director Dale Glenn, MD, shared how the HHP team is working together to develop and implement clinical solutions that benefit both providers and patients.



*Left: Members gathered at the Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki for the O'ahu membership meeting on August 14, 2014.*

*Far left: HHP Board Chair Douglas Kwock, MD; HHP Medical Director Dale Glenn, MD; HHP Executive Director Gerard Livaudais, MD, MPH; and Keynote Speaker Jay Kaplan, MD, respond to questions from the audience.*



*Left: The HHP Kaua'i membership meeting was held on August 28, 2014, at Wilcox Memorial Hospital.*

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:**

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 1 p.m.**

### **The No Barriers Life featuring Erik Weihenmayer**

Celebrated athlete, author and filmmaker Erik Weihenmayer – the only blind person to climb Mount Everest – will share stories of his incredible adventures at a free community event sponsored by Hawai'i Pacific Health at the Stan Sheriff Center. The event will also be broadcast via live streaming video on Kaua'i at the Kaua'i Marriott Resort. Despite losing his vision at age 13, Erik faces life's challenges head-on and lives what he calls the No Barriers Life. His triumphs over barriers and his message of the importance of teamwork will inspire our community to work together for a healthier Hawai'i. Get your tickets online at [www.nobarriershi.eventbrite.com](http://www.nobarriershi.eventbrite.com) for the O'ahu event and [www.nobarrierskauai.eventbrite.com](http://www.nobarrierskauai.eventbrite.com) for the Kaua'i event.

**Friday, Oct. 31, 12:30 p.m.**

### **CME: Friday Noon Grand Rounds on "Advance Care Planning"**

This CME course features Sherry Saito, MD, of Straub Clinic & Hospital on the topic of advance care planning. At the conclusion, participants should be able to address advance care planning, describe and implement steps of advance care planning in their practice, and explain statutory documents. Lunch will be provided at the Straub Doctor's Dining Room. The course will also be available via WebEX.