

**Multi-State Collaborative PI-CME Grants
for Improvement in the Diagnosis and Management of COPD –
Supported by Pfizer, Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline**

Project Abstract

Project Name -- COPD: Steps to Earlier Diagnosis and Treatment

Organization, City, State – Georgia Academy of Family Physicians

Project Title -- COPD: Steps to Earlier Diagnosis and Treatment

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Participants: # physicians and # non-physicians -- 6

Brief Summary of Activity - The activity was geared towards physician practices that were treating patients with symptoms of COPD, an under-diagnosed disease. The project was designed to increase the screening and diagnosis of COPD in the primary care office in an effort to increase the awareness of this undertreated disease.

It was our goal to encourage and treat office champions to implement system changes to help diagnose and treat COPD at an earlier stage. Practices that agreed to participate in the project were to look at their practice data, noting patients that came into the office with symptoms that were similar to those of COPD. Additionally, the practices were asked to input information into a comprehensive data collection portal - HIT Global (www.hit-global.com), and communicate challenges and successes to GAFFP. The practices were to complete the HIT Global online training program, submit an implementation plan, and track and report results.

Selected Outcomes of Project: This project was designed to change competence, performance, and patient outcomes.

Lessons Learned (both positive and negative): We found this project to be very challenging in terms of recruitment and participation. Even though our member needs assessment indicated that there was an express need to identify and treat patients affected by COPD, the recruitment process proved to be arduous. The number of people who signed up for the project was very disappointing and despite a tiered marketing plan (i.e. newsletter articles, fliers available at meetings, email blasts, and direct phone calls) the interest in the project was not there.

We've also heard from participants that the database was difficult to use, even after going through the tutorial. They found it time consuming and not easy to navigate. We have learned that the chapter staff will need to work more closely with the physicians and clinical staff to walk them through the database and troubleshoot any issues they have.