ASCEND | Approaches to CHC Implementation of SDH Data Collection and Action

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The ASCEND study has three aims:

Aim 1: Conduct a mixed methods formative evaluation of SDH data collection uptake among CHCs that had SDH data tools activated in their EHR in June 2016. Quantitative data will come from all 440 CHCs’ shared EHR, qualitative data from 10-12 CHCs purposively recruited from this pool.

Aim 2: Conduct a pragmatic, stepped-wedge, cluster-randomized trial in 30 CHCs. CHCs in each wedge will receive intensive implementation support, which includes both comprehensive technical assistance and training materials designed to help CHCs plan for and implement SDH data collection/action.

Aim 3: Conduct a realist evaluation of whether and how the SDH Action Plan intervention improves: (i) SDH data collection in CHC workflows; (ii) integration of SDH data into DM risk management care; and (iii) clinical measures associated with effective DM risk.

Potential Impact

Despite the known health impacts of SDH and a national movement urging health care providers to identify and act on patients’ SDH-related needs, little is known about how to help CHCs adopt SDH data collection/action. By learning whether and how scalable strategies help CHCs adopt these changes, and the impact of doing so on DM-related outcomes, the study will yield timely, much-needed guidance to CHCs nationwide. Assessing how SDH data collection/action impacts DM-related care may inform understanding of its impact on myriad health outcomes.