Background

Analysis of health data collected from healthcare providers improves patient experience, health policy, and population welfare. OCHIN is a learning health system which currently utilizes healthcare data uploaded to the national framework, and performs research on various health topics, including mental health, substance use disorder, and obesity.

The Facts

- With the spread of electronic health records (EHR), obtaining health data for research purposes has become much more efficient and less burdensome. Despite this simplification, these data arsenals are not being widely utilized to improve public health or methods of care. Furthermore, OCHIN has learned much of health policy is not centered around caring for the most vulnerable population supported by the safety net. These patients are often the most complex, and therefore the most costly to the system.
- Big data and predictive analytics can analyze patterns, correlations, and anomalies, helping healthcare providers deliver more targeted care to patients who present with increasingly complex conditions, increasing the value of healthcare dollars.
- Healthcare data can be combined with social determinants and environmental statistics to provide insight into health outcomes, and inform improvements to health and welfare policy. These differences allow the healthcare approach to adjust to meet the special needs of each patient, to ensure an optimal outcome.
- The national framework is made up of certified EHR systems which allow for seamless transfer or patient records to ensure a patient’s provider has access no matter where the patient goes. This system makes for an enormous health data repository, where the data is deidentified prior to being utilized in research and analysis to protect patient privacy and security.

OCHIN Supports

- Increasing and simplifying access to government supported claims data sets such as Medicaid and Medicare, to perform research which will help improve healthcare efficiency and value-based care, and to ensure data is timely and relevant.
- Urging providers to include social determinants into their patient’s medical files where applicable to provide valuable insight into otherwise immeasurable elements which may impact health outcomes.
- Applying research learnings to policy at a state and national level to ensure that data, evidence, and science are used to transform health care for all, especially the most vulnerable.

Questions?
Contact Jennifer Stoll @ stollj@ochin.org