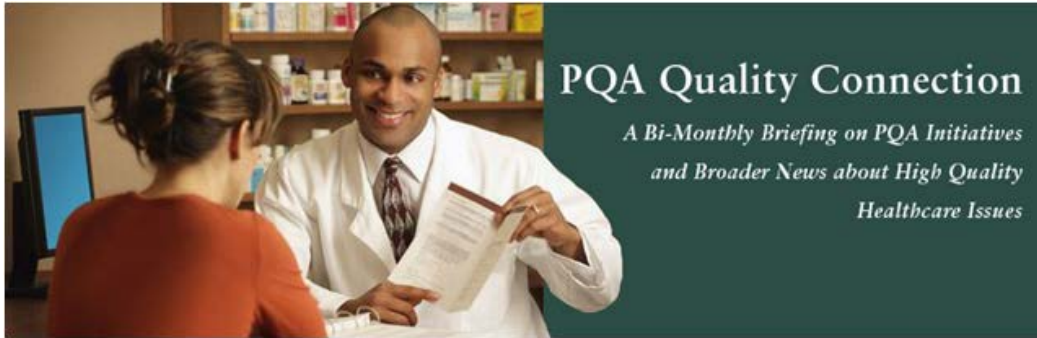




Hot Off the Press: Connections to Key Quality Publications

Hot Off the Press seeks to connect the reader to the most relevant and recent trials, reviews and commentaries related to health care quality with a focus on medication- and pharmacy-related topics.

Topic: Opioid Safety

- **Citation:** Betses M, Brennen T. Abusive Prescribing of Controlled Substances - A Pharmacy View. *Med Care. N Engl J Med* 2013; 369:989-991. September 12, 2013.
- **Description:** Opioid prescriptions have increased by more than 300% since 1999. With more “pill mills” appearing, the authors, both of CVS pharmacy, created a regional analysis of the controlled substance prescribing habits of physicians. High-risk physicians were identified, and in some cases were restricted from having their prescriptions filled at CVS pharmacy. While this practice has created some amount of controversy among prescribers, the authors point out that both federal and state law requires pharmacists to ensure that controlled substances are distributed safely and appropriately.

Topic: Quality Measures

- **Citation:** Panzer RJ, Gitomer RS, Greene WH, et al. Increasing demands for quality measurement. *JAMA. 2013 Nov 13;310(18):1971-80.* doi: 10.1001/jama.2013.282047.
- **Description:** Rapid changes in health care quality and patient safety measurement have been occurring over the past several years and will continue into the future. This JAMA Special Communications report addresses the recent changes in quality measurement including the development of a national strategies and priorities. Primarily focused on medical quality measures, the publication also examines current challenges facing quality measurement and strategies to overcome these challenges. Challenges noted include limited clinical measures, measure system fragmentation, and limited numbers of high-quality measurement systems and registries, along with others. Among the several solutions offered, raising the bar for quality measures to

inspire transformational change and harmonizing measurement systems were noted to be of importance.

Topic: Pharmacists in ACOs

- **Citation:** Smith M, Bates DW, Bodenheimer TS. Pharmacists Belong in Accountable Care Organizations and Integrated Care Teams. Health Affairs. 2013 Nov 32:11.
Description: This article highlights the need to involve pharmacists in evolving models of care to ensure that organizational goals and needs are met with strong team-based care. The proliferation of new models such as medical homes, ACOs, and community-based care teams has created opportunities for pharmacists to assume integrated care roles. The authors identify challenges to integrating pharmacists into new care delivery models such as lack of payment mechanisms, and gaps in medication management measures in the ACO/MSSP measure set. The authors discuss medication management roles for pharmacists to help meet quality improvement goals, improve physician productivity, and offset the burden of high-risk patients. The authors outline several models for both payment and workforce considerations that they predict would best utilize the pharmacist within the care team.