Doing Quality Improvement Together: How to Participate and Benefit from Multisite Quality Collaborations in Palliative Care (SA500)

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Objectives

- Describe the successes and challenges of five regional and national quality improvement collaborations.
- Recognize ideas for quality improvement projects, including how to integrate local efforts with those of larger consortia.

Palliative care quality improvement efforts are accelerating, yet single-site efforts are limited in generalizability and sustainability. Collaborative initiatives are critical to achieving these goals.

We will present steps in creating, building, and sustaining palliative care networks for quality improvement alongside examples of successful and ongoing projects. Our panel includes physician and nursing leaders of five established collaboratives: the Palliative Care Research Cooperative Group (PCRC); the Palliative Care Quality Network (PCQN); the Carolinas Consortium for Palliative Care; the Center for Hospice, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life Studies at the University of South Florida; and the Virtual Learning Collaborative to Reduce Disparities for Advanced Cancer Patients and Family Caregivers. These efforts are diverse in purpose, geography, and size and represent some of the most ambitious, productive, and thriving consortia to study and improve palliative care.

First we will review our experiences in creating and sustaining multisite collaborations, including how to engage stakeholders, review goals, appraise resources and costs, and reconcile the varying interests of members. Next we will provide examples of quality improvement projects and share preliminary results that highlight how rapid assessment and development of best practices can thrive in palliative care. Such examples include a pain management program through the PCQN, a dyspnea and constipation project within the Carolinas Consortium, and implementing an evidence-based concurrent oncology-palliative care model in settings with a majority of minority.

During this session we will share our experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in establishing and sustaining five large quality improvement collaborations in palliative care. In addition, we will foster an open dialogue with the audience to promote development of similar programs in their local communities. Together we hope to build a mutual understanding of the power of quality improvement collaborations and a practical path forward so all may participate and benefit.