

Grant Outcome Report

Implementation of the Gold STAMP Program to Reduce Pressure Ulcers in New York State

The Problem

Pressure ulcers are a common patient safety issue resulting from prolonged periods of uninterrupted pressure on the skin, soft tissue, muscle, and bone. They are most common among the elderly, people who use wheelchairs, and bedridden patients. Nationally, the rate of pressure ulcers is increasing, with some 2.5 million patients being treated annually in acute care settings. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) convened a broad coalition of representatives from various health care settings to promote the Gold STAMP (Success Through Assessment, Management, and Prevention) program in order to create a uniform standard of care for pressure ulcers across health care settings. After an initial set of partners took the lead in developing and implementing a Phase 1 pilot program, the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) awarded a grant to the Foundation for Quality Care (FQC) to implement the Gold STAMP program statewide.

Grant Activities and Outcomes

The Gold STAMP project had one overarching goal: to achieve a uniform standard of care for the assessment, management, and prevention of pressure ulcers across health care settings in New York State. Toward that end, FQC planned to establish regional collaboratives; train regional coaches to provide technical assistance in the implementation of Gold STAMP to health care organizations in their respective regions; and identify and use a reliable data collection tool and available data sets to demonstrate a reduction in pressure ulcers.

During the grant period, FQC established six regional collaboratives: two on Long Island, two in New York City, and one in both the Hudson Valley and Capital District regions. Across those six regions, 40 health care organizations signed a memoranda of agreement to participate in the initiative, which exceeded the project's original target of 18 health care organizations. The 40 health care organizations included representatives from 18 skilled nursing facilities, 13 hospitals, and 9 home care agencies. In addition, FQC screened, selected, and trained five coaches to provide technical assistance to those organizations.

KEY INFORMATION:

GRANTEE

The Foundation for Quality Care

GRANT TITLE

Implementation of the Gold STAMP Program to Reduce Pressure Ulcers in New York State

DATES

October 2011–December 2013

GRANT AMOUNT

\$299,842

FUNDING

Special Projects Fund

The two-year project concluded with a statewide Gold STAMP conference on September 17, 2013, involving NYSDOH and NYSHealth Gold STAMP partners.

Upon completion of the grant, LeadingAge New York (LeadingAge), an association of more than 5,000 nonprofits dedicated to improving quality of life and quality of care for aging populations, conducted an assessment of the initiative and examined features of the model that enhanced the collaborative process. Through this assessment, LeadingAge sought to standardize practices to assess, manage, and prevent pressure ulcers across care settings by identifying specific areas of improvement that were achieved. LeadingAge determined that active participation in monthly collaborative meetings increased use of Gold STAMP resources; increased education surrounding standard protocols for pressure ulcer assessment, treatment, and documentation across care settings; and improved communication within and between provider settings. LeadingAge also observed that documentation of organizational policies and practices related to pressure ulcer treatment improved and the use of standardized communication tools increased.

In addition, LeadingAge attempted to draw some conclusions about the impact of Gold STAMP on prevention and management of pressure ulcers, but lack of publicly reported hospital data limited an analysis of the Gold STAMP program's impact across settings. Instead, LeadingAge collected data through surveys of each participating organization. While this quantitative data is limited in scope and timeframe, the trends are promising: the percent of long-stay residents with pressure ulcers in participating organizations decreased between baseline and the end of the project. Gold STAMP also proved to be an important tool in leveraging State funding for programs for the aging; over the course of the grant, Gold STAMP was able to leverage \$1.2 million in State funding:

- SFY 2011–12 (Year 1): \$350,000
- SFY 2012–13 (Year 2): \$350,000
- SFY 2013–14 (Year 3): \$500,000

The Future

During the final stages of the program, Gold STAMP coaches worked on sustainability planning; as a result, the statewide work of the program was able to continue with at least two years of funding from the NYSDOH Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT). NYSDOH also formed a statewide Gold STAMP coordinating committee and developed an action plan for 2013–14. The MRT work plan for 2014 includes the development of booster training to retrain current collaboratives that have experienced leadership team turnover; quarterly updates to the Gold STAMP resource guide; and the establishment of a centralized



Gold STAMP website.¹ The six Gold STAMP collaboratives originally supported by NYSHealth continue to have access to ongoing training opportunities through the MRT/SUNY Albany School of Public Health's Center for Public Health Continuing Education (CPHCE) webinar series. These ongoing activities have allowed CPHCE to identify new providers interested in developing a collaborative and make referrals to the MRT Gold STAMP project for start up. Finally, the MRT Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program has a focus area that includes a program to expand pressure ulcer prevention to reduce avoidable hospitalizations. This program will follow the implementation strategies of the successful Gold STAMP program.

¹ Visit the Gold STAMP website at: <http://www.goldstamp.org>.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

The Foundation for Quality Care (FQC) is a nonprofit education and research foundation based in Albany. FQC works to improve the quality of care provided to elderly and disabled persons residing in long-term care settings throughout New York State. FQC is active in clinical research, quality improvement, workforce development, health information and technology, long-term care delivery infrastructure, continuing education, and promoting the arts in health care.

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