A network of primary care practices engaged in Quality Improvement (QI)

The Department of Family Medicine (University of Ottawa) is establishing the OPEN initiative research study to support primary care practices interested in optimizing care delivery to their patients to achieve their goals.

Is this initiative relevant to me?

OPEN is seeking primary care practices in the Ottawa region that are interested in working together to address areas of care they prioritize for their practices.

Examples of potential priorities: Establishing a diabetes registry for better care planning; addressing uncontrolled hypertension in the elderly; reducing polypharmacy; linking patients with anxiety and depression to community resources.
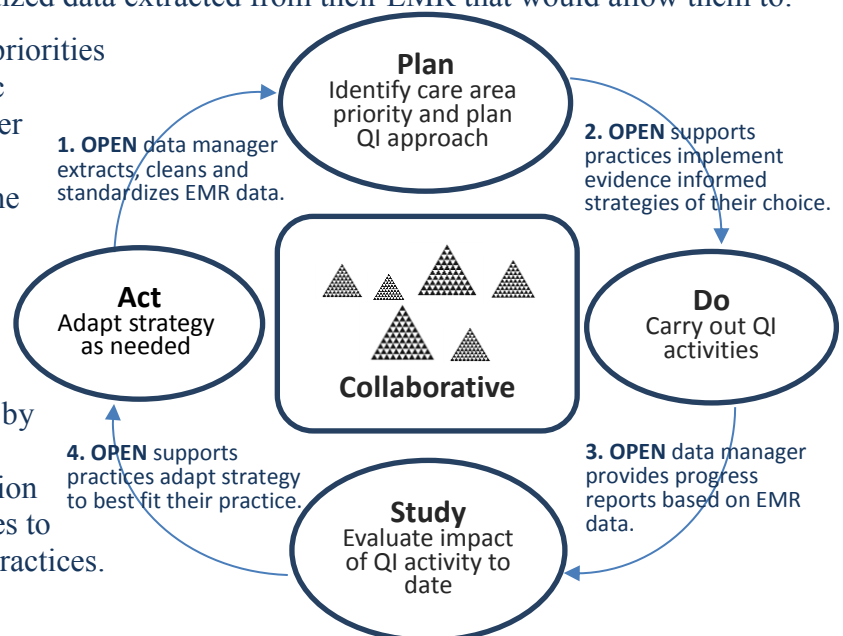
What opportunities does this initiative offer?

OPEN is a grassroot collaborative partnership between academics, practices, health planners, and patients focused on optimizing care delivery. OPEN is also a member of the Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN), a not for profit academic organization that has developed a validated, standardized approach to extracting information from Canadian EMR systems.[*]

OPEN can offer practices cleaned and standardized data extracted from their EMR that would allow them to:

- Assess practice performance to inform QI priorities
- Identify practice patients who meet specific criteria and whom they may wish to consider for QI initiatives
- Track progress on target indicators over time

OPEN will produce reports for these activities, although practices will also have the opportunity to access their extracted data directly for these purposes.

OPEN will also support participating practices by providing evidence on effective strategies to address the care area targeted, practice facilitation to implement desired changes, and opportunities to learn from a community of like-minded local practices.

Plan Identify care area priority and plan QI approach

1. OPEN data manager extracts, cleans and standardizes EMR data.

2. OPEN supports practices implement evidence informed strategies of their choice.

Act Adapt strategy as needed

Collaborative

Do Carry out QI activities

4. OPEN supports practices adapt strategy to best fit their practice.

3. OPEN data manager provides progress reports based on EMR data.

Study Evaluate impact of QI activity to date

How could OPEN practices benefit?

There are many potential ways in which participants can benefit from joining OPEN. For example:

Organizational level: Improve reporting capability; Facilitate setting priorities; Enhance organizational efficiency.

Providers: Access to learning opportunities, evidence-based information, and support to address their priorities.

Patients: Enhanced care delivered by engaged, informed and supported providers.

For more information contact Maddie Venables, PhD. Research Coordinator mvenables@bruyere.org (613-562-6262 ext. 2936) or Simone Dahrouge, PhD. OPEN Director sdahrouge@bruyere.org.

*Note: Reliable algorithms presently exist for eight chronic diseases: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dementia, depression, diabetes, epilepsy, hypertension, osteoarthritis and Parkinson's disease, and others are being developed. CPCSSN extractions include laboratory tests, clinical measurements, prescriptions, and many other data fields.