

Project Summary

Eastern Maine Health Systems (EMHS), one of the newly designated Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) with CMS, is committed to achieving its vision of being a nationally recognized leader in providing excellent healthcare. In order to accomplish its vision, “Connecting the Dots: Behavioral Health Integration in an Accountable Care Organization” will aggressively weave behavioral health assessment, screening, and intervention into the fabric of healthcare delivery within primary care. We recognize that providing excellent healthcare requires identification and intervention with all aspects of health, including mental/behavioral health. This project will advance the integration of behavioral health screening through improved use of health information technology, build staff competency through increased education and support, and improve use of available behavioral health resources. Accomplishing these goals will further our health systems ability to further reduce the care gaps that older adults with behavioral health problems experience, supports EMHS larger vision and goals, and also has immediate reward of improving outcomes on ACO measures as defined by CMS.

EMHS manages a multitude of organizations, including hospitals, primary care, home health/hospice, psychiatric (inpatient and outpatient), and SNF/LTC in order to meet the health needs of patients across the care continuum. It is anticipated that this project will offer insight and learning that can be applied to the larger organization as we continue to improve integration of behavioral health integration across the continuum and make progress towards recognition as a national leader, providing excellent healthcare in all health domains.