

# COLLABORATIVE CARE: A step-by-step guide to implementing the core model

## Lay the foundation

Collaborative Care is a new way of doing medicine and requires an openness to creating a new vision that everyone supports.

- ✓ Develop an understanding of the Collaborative Care approach, including its history and guiding principles.
- ✓ Develop strong advocacy for Collaborative Care within organizational leadership and among the clinical team.
- ✓ Create a unified vision for Collaborative Care for your organization with respect to your overall mission and quality improvement efforts.
- ✓ Assess the difference between your organization's current care model compared to a Collaborative Care model.

## Plan for Clinical Practice Change

Time to clearly define care team roles, create a patient-centered workflow, and decide how to track patient treatment and outcomes

- ✓ Identify all Collaborative Care team members and organize them for training.
- ✓ Develop a clinical flowchart and detailed action plan for the care team.
- ✓ Identify a population-based tracking system for your organization.
- ✓ Plan for funding, space, human resource, and other administrative needs.
- ✓ Plan to merge Collaborative Care monitoring and reporting outcomes into an existing quality improvement plan.

## Build your Clinical Skills

Effective Collaborative Care creates a team in which all of the providers work together using evidence-based treatments.

- ✓ Describe Collaborative Care's key tasks, including patient engagement and identification, treatment initiation, outcome tracking, treatment adjustment and relapse prevention.
- ✓ Develop a qualified and prepared care team, equipped with the functional knowledge necessary for a successful Collaborative Care implementation.
- ✓ Develop skills in psychotherapy treatment that are evidence-based and appropriate for primary care (e.g. Problem Solving Treatment, Behavioral Activation, etc)

## Launch your Care

Is your team in place? Are they ready to use evidence-based interventions appropriate for primary care? Are all systems go? Time to launch!

- ✓ Implement a patient engagement plan
- ✓ Manage the enrollment and tracking of patients in a registry
- ✓ Develop a care team monitoring plan to ensure effective collaborations
- ✓ Develop clinical skills to help patients from the beginning to the end of their treatment, including a relapse prevention plan

## Nurture your Care

Now is the time to see the results of your efforts as well as to think about ways to improve it.

- ✓ Implement the care team monitoring plan to ensure effective team collaborations
- ✓ Update your program vision and workflow
- ✓ Implement advanced training and support where necessary