MEDTAPP NICU GRADUATES PROJECT

Project Overview: Sponsored and directed by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and administered by the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center (GRC), the Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy program (MEDTAPP) Improving Care Transitions for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Graduates (“NICU Graduates”) project seeks to implement a three-year quality improvement (QI) initiative to improve the transition from the NICU to home for infants with complex health care needs and/or technology dependence. This QI initiative will target 300 infants over 3 years in select Level III NICUs and develop a QI toolkit to enhance practice awareness, improve care coordination, develop evidence-based clinical guidelines, and identify best practices for a family-centered care approach.

Project Partner Involvement: The MEDTAPP NICU Graduates project seeks partners for several key aspects of this QI project.

- **MEDTAPP NICU Graduates Project Steering Committee (20-25 members)** - The MEDTAPP NICU Graduates Project Steering Committee will provide input to the design and direction of the NICU project; engage stakeholder group to ensure buy-in and consensus building; assist in engaging project partners and community resources; and provide high-level guidance to the project. Steering Committee representation will include leaders from the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Health, Department of Developmental Disabilities, Children’s Hospitals, Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Colleges of Medicine, Medicaid Managed Care Plans, Child Welfare and Services, Home Health Agencies, Medical Equipment Suppliers, Care Management Organizations, Nickis, Patient and Family Advocates, and Family Representatives. Steering Committee responsibilities include a time commitment of two to three hours quarterly.

- **MEDTAPP NICU Graduates Project Clinical Advisory Panel (8-10 members)** - The MEDTAPP NICU Graduates Project Clinical Advisory Panel will assist in identifying best practices, evidence-informed clinical guidelines, and technical resources; provide clinical support and expertise in QI toolkit development; and serve as clinical advisors in QI trainings. Some potential areas of expertise include Neonatology, Primary Care Pediatrics, Pediatric pulmonology, Pediatric gastroenterology, Developmental Follow-Up Care, Pediatric Medical Equipment and Supplies, Pediatric Nutrition and Feeding, Pediatric Home Health Care, Care Coordination, Case management, Patient Centered Care, NICU Family Support and Engagement. The Clinical Advisory Panel will meet at minimum on a monthly basis and occasionally participate in monthly early adopter calls with the NICU practice sites.

- **MEDTAPP NICU Graduates Project Pilot Sites (Phase I-2015: 4 Pilot Sites, Phase II-2016: 8 Pilot Sites)** - The NICU sites will provide input to the resources and refinement of the QI toolkit, integrating and testing the QI toolkit in their service models, enrolling critical care infants into the pilot intervention, and measuring clinical and process outcomes of the pilot intervention. Twelve Level III NICUs will be engaged to participate. Four pilot sites will be recruited in Phase I (2015) as early adopters and an additional eight pilot sites will be recruited in Phase II (2016). The four early adopter pilots will be selected based on geographic and demographic representation of NICU census, high volume Medicaid births, and established community-based continuity of care relationships. The NICU pilot sites will participate in annual project meetings and monthly early adopter calls with the project team.

Interested participants may express interest and/or provide recommendations for the NICU Graduates project Steering Committee, Clinical Advisory Panel, and/or Pilot Sites by December 31, 2014 to MEDTAPPNICU@osumc.edu.

Fall 2014 MEDTAPP NICU Graduates Project Procurement Opportunity:

- **MEDTAPP NICU Graduates Project QI Vendor (team trained to develop, test, and spread clinical best practices using QI Science)** - The MEDTAPP NICU Graduates Project QI vendor will collaborate with other project partners to identify best practices, evidence based guidelines, and additional clinical resources; develop a QI toolkit; provide toolkit implementation technical assistance; and develop a plan to spread the initiative. The vendor will work with project partners to implement data-driven QI action plans and participate in early adopter calls to assist pilot sites in intervention testing and adoption using rapid cycle feedback. Required expertise includes NICU transition of care, QI Science, and working collaboratively with multiple partners in a project team setting to develop a toolkit.