

Care Dimensions

SERIOUS ADVANCING ILLNESS AND CARE AT THE END OF LIFE

CARE MODEL

Care Dimensions' Palliative Care+ (PC+) program bridges service gaps among curative care, palliative care, and hospice services for patients with serious illness by integrating palliative care staff into North Shore Physicians Group's (NSPG) primary care sites. The PC+ team consists of palliative care nurse practitioners, a social worker offering psychosocial support and counseling, and a palliative care nurse coach who provides support to patients through telephonic check-ins. Patients are referred to the PC+ team by their primary care providers (PCP), who in turn work with the PC+ staff to improve identification of patients and the timeliness

of referrals. A palliative care nurse case manager embedded in the PCP offices serves as the liaison between NSPG sites and the Care Dimensions team, participating in rounds, consulting on specific cases, and supporting providers in engaging patients in conversations about palliative and end-of-life care. The PC+ program supports better, earlier identification of patients likely to benefit from palliative care services, and closes feedback loops to PCPs about the care and health of their PC+ patients, including vital signs reported through Bluetooth-enabled home telemonitoring devices.

IMPACT

\$750K
HPC AWARD

\$763K
TOTAL PROJECT COST

TARGET POPULATION
NSPG Medicare accountable
care organization patients with
severe, life-limiting illness

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AIMS:

↓ 30%
all-cause readmissions
and ED visits

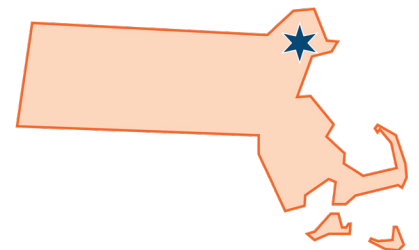


↑ 5%
hospice length of stay



PARTNERS

- North Shore Physicians Group



HCII PATHWAY SUMMARY & HPC BACKGROUND

In 2016, the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) launched its \$6.6 million Targeted Cost Challenge Investment (TCCI) pathway of the Health Care Innovation Investment (HCII) Program. The TCCI pathway aims to foster innovation in health care payment and service delivery by supporting promising innovations that address the Commonwealth's most complex health care cost challenges. The ten TCCI initiatives are partnering with more than 60 community organizations to demonstrate rapid cost savings within 18 months by addressing one of the following challenge areas: social determinants of health, behavioral health

integration, post-acute care, serious advancing illness and care at the end of life, and site and scope of care.

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC), established in 2012, is an independent state agency charged with monitoring health care spending growth in Massachusetts and providing data-driven policy recommendations regarding health care delivery and payment system reform. The HPC's mission is to advance a more transparent, accountable, and innovative health care system through independent policy leadership and investment programs. Visit us at Mass.gov/HPC. Tweet us @Mass_HPC.