EnsIDT QAPI Plan: Inhalers

STEP	OBJECTIVE	DESCRIPTION	TOOLS TO USE
1 DEFINE	**What is the problem?** Overuse of inhalers in patients with advanced pulmonary conditions	**Improvement opportunity & scope:** • Successful medication administration from metered-dose inhalers (MDIs), dry-powder inhalers (DPIs) or soft-mist inhalers (SMIs)(i.e., Respimat) are impacted by inspiratory effort and breath control • Hospice patients lack the physical skill or cognitive ability to correctly use MDIs, DPIs and SMIs. In addition, these are costly therapies.	**Baseline monthly spend by hospice site** **Targeted Medication Report**

2 MEASURE	**How are we doing?** Gauge high utilization of inhalers and potential cost savings	**Process to identify the problem and expected outcome**
		• Measurable items:
		  ○ Baseline monthly cost
		  ○ Top hospice sites by charge
		  ○ Most prescribed medications in targeted medication list
		  ○ Top prescribers by charge
		• Goal: Defined as "X" % cost savings from baseline (i.e., 25%)
		• Outcome: Total monthly savings from baseline
			Targeted Medication Report

3 ANALYZE	**What is wrong?** Identify actionable measures through assessment of current practices	**Root causes:** • Lack of patient assessment of inhaler use technique • Lack of knowledge of appropriate use of inhalers vs. nebulizers in advanced pulmonary conditions • Refilling medications without prior patient inhaler use assessment • Patient/caregiver reluctance to change medications • Others as defined by group	**Brainstorming** **Root cause analysis**
4 IMPROVE	**Fix the problem.** Decrease utilization of inhalers and gain cost savings	**Initiate the project, create project plan** • Select sites for project implementation • Identify project lead • Establish project timeline • Select the drug class to target • Introduce project during IDT discussions • Staff training • Patient/caregiver education	**Targeted Medication Report** **Training video/slides** **Quick Facts for clinicians, "Use of Inhalers at End of Life"** **Patient/caregiver education**
5 CONTROL	**Maintain gains & publish results.** Maintain current or lower level of utilization and costs of inhalers in overall spend	**Control measures to maintain results; evaluate results; publish results** • Monitor symptom outcomes • Monitor monthly utilization and cost trends • Evaluate changes in prescribing • Discuss progress and challenges during IDT meetings • Include in new hire training	**Targeted Medication Report** **Patient records/ symptom assessment** **IDT agenda: Include as regular item for discussion**