

Improving Care Transitions with Innovative Technology and Health Services Research: A Journey through AHRQ's Health IT Portfolio

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## **Learning Objectives**

- Describe AHRQ's Health Information Technology Research portfolio and discuss how it supports research focused on improving care transitions.
- Discuss AHRQ's research funding opportunities that support the use of innovative health IT solutions to improve care transitions.
- Identify examples of innovative AHRQ funded health IT research projects that are aimed to improve care transitions for people with multiple chronic conditions.

## **AHRQ Mission**

A AHRO

To produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality,

more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within HHS and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used

5

# Agenda



- Background
  - AHRQ
  - Division of Health IT
- Highlights from AHRQ's health IT research portfolio
  - Health IT safety, patient-reported outcomes, clinical decision support
- Care Transitions health IT research
- Questions

3

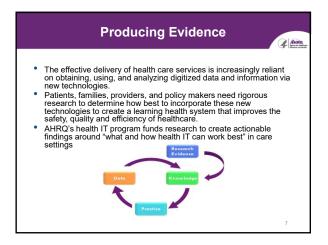
# AHRQ's Health IT Program



Produces and disseminates evidence about how health IT can make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable

- · Established in 2004
- Has invested in research grants and contracts awarded to 289 distinct institutions in 48 States and the District of Columbia
- Currently has 108 active health IT research grants that represent a \$125M investment

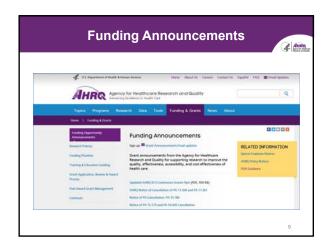
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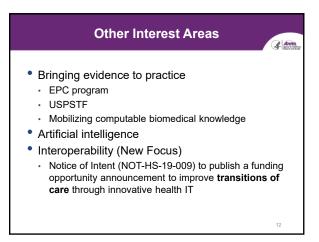












#### **Funded Care Transitions Research**



- Using Location Based Smartphone Alerts Within A System of Care Coordination - David T. Liss
  - This project will design and implement a care coordination system using a smartphone application that sends locationbased alerts to care managers when high-risk patients receive care at a regional hospital or emergency room.
- Interactive Patient-Centered Discharge Toolkit To Promote Self-Management During Transitions - Anuj K. Dalal
  - This project will implement and evaluate a previously developed, interactive, patient-centered discharge toolkit to improve the transition of care from the inpatient to outpatient settings.

13

#### **Funded Care Transitions Research**



- Improving Rural Healthcare Transitions Through Health Information Exchange - Kenneth Wood
- This project enhanced an existing health-information exchange (HIE) to enable clinicians to work more effectively and efficiently and to utilize the HIE more fully when managing care transitions.

16

## **Funded Care Transitions Research**



- Electronic Medication Adherence Reporting and Feedback During Care Transitions - Jeffrey L. Schnipper
  - This project will design and implement a care coordination system using a smartphone application that sends locationbased alerts to care managers when high-risk patients receive care at a regional hospital or emergency room.
- Coordinating Transitions: Health Information Technology Role in Improving Multiple Chronic Disease Outcomes -Sharon Hewner
  - This study aimed to improve care transitions for low-income patients with multiple chronic conditions using health information exchange, and found significant reductions in inpatient and emergency department utilization.

14

## **Questions or Comments?**



## Thank you!

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17

# **Funded Care Transitions Research**



- Care Transitions and Teamwork in Pediatric Trauma: Implications for Health Information Technology Design -Ayse Pinar Gurses
  - This project seeks to develop an understanding of the cognitive work of clinician teams and family members involved in pediatric trauma care transitions in order to design usable and useful health information technologies.
- Automated Notification for Follow-Up Testing Recommendations Across Care Settings – Ronilda Lacson
  - This project built an automated intervention that recognized critical imaging results that require additional testing and populated a discharge summary with recommendations, resulting in improved patient follow-up.

15