

GEORGIA CANCER QUALITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE Measuring Progress—Motivating Change

What Is a Demonstration Partner?

The Georgia Cancer Quality Information Exchange (The Exchange) was formed by the Georgia Cancer Coalition (the Coalition) to facilitate the design, access and retrieval of clinical information and public health data for the purposes of measuring the quality of cancer care, enhancing adherence to standards of care, and improving patient-centered care and outcomes through process change.

A Demonstration Partner is an organization that the Coalition works with to identify and retrieve cancer quality data to be submitted to The Exchange. Since each Partner is unique, the Coalition works closely with each to develop processes that enable the organization to submit this data on a regular basis.

The Exchange may be the first evidence-based, statewide cancer quality measurement program in the country. It is designed to:

- Link quality, IT and research efforts to achieve long term goals
- Establish an independent third party to aggregate cancer quality data
- Maximize the opportunity for impact by combining the:
 - Leadership, visibility and success of the Coalition
 - Innovative, engaged physician-driven network of Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (CORE)
 - Nationally-developed, scientifically reviewed plan of the Institute Of Medicine (IOM)
 - Focus on significant, growing and costly disease
 - Public health data on incidence, screening, survival and mortality rates with point-of-care outcomes data
- Set up demonstration projects through engaged physicians and health systems to test concepts and show results
- Establish pathways through the Coalition to disseminate results and add value
- Create a model that is replicable and can be used for comparison at both the state and national levels
- Leverage work in progress at the Georgia regional health information organization and national health information network

Who Owns the Cancer Quality Data in The Exchange?

The key reason The Exchange was formed was to create a trusted third party that aggregates and de-identifies data (makes it not individually identifiable) from providers and payors across Georgia. Data de-identification includes removing specific facility, provider and patient information. This de-identified data is then used for analysis and reporting to monitor the 52 quality-of-care indicators for Georgia identified by the IOM in its report, *Assessing the Quality of Cancer Care: An Approach to Measurement in Georgia*. Each provider and payor owns their own data. While each facility can see all of their own data, the additional value of the de-identified data is in monitoring statewide trends to answer questions such as:

- Are the providers across Georgia providing patients with appropriate smoking cessation programs?
- Is the incidence rate of breast cancer improving across the state?
- Are we diagnosing cancer in its earliest stages?
- Are cancer survivors in Georgia living longer than the national average?

What Are the Responsibilities of a Demonstration Partner?

Being a Demonstration Partner shows leadership and commitment to the cause of making Georgia a national leader in cancer care. Demonstration Partners have certain responsibilities and obligations, such as

- Providing resources throughout the project cycle to identify and collect data relevant to the 52 IOM indicators
- Implementing and documenting repeatable processes and tools to ensure the data is collected on a continuing basis after the demonstration project has concluded
- Actively participating in regular Steering Committee and Working Team Meetings
- Reporting feedback and lessons learned throughout the project so future roll-outs can benefit
- Making decisions and resolving issues related to collection of the indicators in a timely fashion
- Brokering business agreements between local parties
- Communicating and creating “buy-in” throughout the partner organization
- Providing logistics assistance, such as project meeting scheduling and room reservations

What Coalition Support Will a Demonstration Partner Receive?

The Coalition is committed to the success of each demonstration project. As such, the Coalition will facilitate the process of collecting the IOM indicators. Specifically, the Coalition will provide overall project management support including project planning, timeline development, project status reporting and deliverables development. The Coalition has significant process improvement experience that will be leveraged during demonstration projects. The Coalition will assist partners with any questions throughout the demonstration project.

How Much Will It Cost to be a Demonstration Partner?

The cost to the Demonstration Partner is the staff and leadership team’s time to be active participants in the project. Depending on technology and adoption levels, other potential costs may include third party programming costs to get the data out of various applications, and chart sampling costs if the data is based on paper charts. Each Demonstration Partner is unique and will require a different level of investment of time and resources based on their infrastructure.

All costs for project management and support provided by the Coalition are paid for by the Coalition.

What Are the Benefits of Being a Demonstration Partner?

The Georgia Cancer Coalition realizes that being a Demonstration Partner requires time and investment. Demonstration Partners will be recognized as integral in helping Georgia eradicate cancer. This groundbreaking program will not only serve the local community and state, it will be studied as a model for other states to improve cancer care across the nation.