

Transforming Primary Care to Meet the Needs of Alzheimer's Patients and Caregivers

The goal of this project is to improve the care and support of patients with Alzheimer's dementia and related dementias (ADRD) and their caregivers residing in Eastern Montana by standardizing and transforming dementia care in primary care practices. Specifically, our primary objective is to develop and implement an Alzheimer's Clinical Pathway that operationalizes evidence-informed ADRD provider practice tools and resources into the office workflow of primary care providers practicing at one of three participating healthcare facilities (one urban and two rural) in Eastern Montana and who manage patients with memory issues. Partners will include the Billings Clinic, two rural primary care clinics, several community support services and resource organizations, the Minnesota ACT on Alzheimer's (ACT) consortium, an ACT trainer, and ADRD patients and caregivers. Outcomes will be measured before and after implementation of the Alzheimer's Clinical Pathway.

Expected outcomes include improvement in: 1) ADRD screening and diagnosis; 2) dementia care management and coordination by primary care providers and office care teams; 3) linkage of ADRD patients and caregivers to state and local community services and resources; and 4) measurement of patients' and caregivers' satisfaction with care. Improvement in perceived dementia care knowledge and management skills by primary care providers and care teams is also expected.

Participating clinic sites include Billings Clinic in Billings, Montana and two eastern Montana rural primary care clinics. The two rural clinics are the Glendive Medical Center (GMC), a 25-bed acute care critical access hospital in Dawson, County in eastern Montana and the Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC), a 25-bed critical access hospital in Lewistown in Fergus County, Montana.

This project was funded, in whole or in part, through a grant awarded by the Montana Healthcare Foundation.

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