By working on the process, we expect to review MUHC medication utilization to determine potential cost savings from the project. The team linked up with TI to review literature for best practices. Specific costs over the course of treatment might have the information they need to analyze post-ordering data to determine provider feedback through a survey. I am concerned that instituting price transparency will both dispel the challenges presenting in the organization and provide even greater levels of quality care to our patients.

**Specific Measures**

- Decrease utilization of targeted medications by implementing price transparency in EMR
- Decrease cost to organization of targeted medications
- Decrease cost to organization of targeted medications

**Plan of Change**

- Develop recommendations for integrating med costs into the EMR at the point of order
- Review literature for best practices
- Obtain ordering provider feedback through a survey
- Review MUHC medication utilization to determine pilot opportunities for improvement

**Problem Statement**

Leadership has identified that overutilization of high cost medications may add unnecessary costs to MUHC as well as our patients. We have a responsibility to provide high-value care to our patients.

**Overcoming Challenges**

In the past, this project has received a lower priority due to the following concerns:

1. I am concerned that instituting price transparency will result in poorer care.
2. I am concerned that instituting price transparency will harm the bottom line.
3. I do not believe having insight into the relative prices will impact my ordering practices or the order practice of my peers.
4. I do not believe that MUHC is footing the cost for very many ineligible or unnecessary labs/meds/etc.

The EMR Physician Council recently reviewed a similar project to make pathology costs transparent. The team linked up with TI to build and implement the cost display tool.

**Survey and Literature**

- 152 respondents to the survey
- Survey and literature both dispel the challenges presenting in the plan section.

1. Literature states that price transparency does not prevent appropriate clinical decision-making as it offers providers additional information to make patient-centered treatment choices. Providers also indicated on the survey that choices would still be made based on the best outcome for patients.
2. Under the current payer mix (see Figure 1) and changing payment structures, MUHC has an incentive to reduce costs while providing even greater levels of quality care to our patients.
3. Providers currently do not have the information they need to change ordering practices (see Figures 2 & 3).
4. The PILD team continues to study the potential impact.
5. Key findings to inform the EMR tool design
   - Specific costs over course of treatment
   - Information for medication alternatives
   - The cost should be what the patient will pay
   - Information should be available for all meds
   - The information should be made available on demand rather than through alerts.

**Tiger Institute Partnership**

- The EMR Physician Council
- TI is currently studying medication utilization data to determine high-impact medications and potential cost savings from the project
- Investigating deploying code currently being used in France within MUHC’s EMR

**Next Steps**

1. Conduct data analysis to determine the trends in provider prescribing
2. Target a medication / medication class and implement a smaller scale intervention
   a. Modify the current IV acetaminophen alert in Cerner to include cost information
   b. Put document in EMR that links to a cost sheet for a class of medications
3. Analyze post-intervention data to determine if cost transparency does affect medication prescribing
4. If favorable results, implement larger scale intervention into the EMR
   a. Intervention would integrate the provider preferences from the survey
5. Spread to other areas (pathology, radiology, etc.) based on physician survey feedback

**Plan of Change**

- Implement the cost display tool
- Deploy the ordering system
- Include cost information in the provider survey to obtain provider feedback
- Implement a smaller scale intervention
- Increase medication cost transparency at the time of ordering.

**Action**

- Plan section.
- The plan includes increasing medication cost transparency and linking to a cost sheet for a class of medications.
- The plan also includes targeting a medication / medication class and implementing a smaller scale intervention.
- The plan includes analyzing post-intervention data to determine if cost transparency does affect medication prescribing.

**Graphics / Data**

**Figure 1**

- MUHC Payer Mix

**Figure 2**

- When placing a medication order for conditions you have experience treating, to what extent do you currently know:

**Figure 3**

- For situations in which there are multiple medications of similar clinical efficacy but very different costs, please indicate the extent to which your medication ordering decisions would be influenced by knowing: