Development of Field-Based Recommendations for Measurement Based Care within VA Primary Care Mental Health Integration Programs

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Measurement Based Care (MBC) Initiative

• Workgroups requested by OMHSP
  – Intention to provide a hybrid (bottom-up & top-down) implementation strategy where voice of the field is major driver of guidance

• PCMHI workgroup followed in footsteps of PTSD and BHIP groups
  – Routed through VA Center for Integrated Healthcare (CIH)
  – Volunteer group of PCMHI clinicians and leaders

• Major objectives were:
  – Recommend the specific PROMS to be used in PCMHI
  – Provide guidance around transdiagnostic PROMs (e.g., health behaviors)
  – Identify frequencies at which PROMS should be administered, discussed, and acted upon
Workgroup Process

• Weekly meetings May - August 2021
• Gathered resources on PROMs and MBC literature
  – Organized and shared materials via MS Teams group
• Sought input from the PCMHI field via two national calls and a 20-item survey (sent to listserv)
• Many rounds of editing and revision based on feedback
  – Guidance and final approval from OMHSP

RedCap Field Survey:
- N=143
- 18 Likert-type items
- 2 open ended items
- Organized around Collect, Share, Act
• Workgroup addressed many potential controversies and came to consensus
  – Discussion informed by group members’ discipline/training and local experience
• Major topics addressed by the Workgroup:
  – MBC in PCMHI vs. General/Specialty MH
  – Term definitions
  – Cultural considerations
  – Time management
  – Virtual care considerations
  – Use of technology (e.g., BHL Touch)
  – Resources/needs for implementation support at the individual and program levels
MBC in VA PCMHI Programs

- Synthesized information into one cohesive document
  - Executive Summary included to enhance practical application
- Document organized around Collect, Share, and Act
  - 10 major recommendations
  - Multiple considerations and resources for best practices
- Overarching messages:
  - MBC is a *dynamic process*, not merely a collection task
  - MBC is an essential component of PCMHI and an expectation of all team members
  - MBC is empirically supported, collaborative, and efficient
  - MBC is highly consistent with the Whole Health approach, helping to focus on what matters most to Veterans
Summary

• Collaborative workgroup process was effective
• Development of MBC recommendations tailored specifically for PCMHI was much needed and challenging
• Guidance representative of field opinions
  – Subsequent presentation of final product on several national calls was well received
• Implementation resources will help launch more effective MBC
  – Priority for use of BHL software products for best practice
• Next Steps: Socialization of recommendations and consideration for future PCMHI policy
Questions and Comments

Additional questions or comments can be directed to:

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General Questions about MBC within VHA can be directed to: MBCInformation@va.gov