Intervention for Physician Prescribers Reduces Healthcare Costs in State Medicaid Population

About This Study
This study examines the healthcare cost outcomes from an automated educational intervention delivered by Care Management Technologies (CMT) to the State of Missouri in 2003. The intervention was delivered in the form of automated alerts to physicians whose patient data indicated a deviation from best practices (16,962 patients). Compared to a control group of 42,960 patients whose physicians did not receive alerts, the outcomes of patients whose physicians received alerts had lower pharmacy and hospital costs. There were also significant inpatient and outpatient cost reductions, hospital admissions, and bed days for a subgroup of schizophrenic patients. With the voluminous medical literature and ongoing medical advances, individual practitioners alone cannot keep abreast of and implement all the relevant best practices. This study indicates that a tool such as CMT’s Behavioral Pharmacy Management can help improve physician prescribing, leading to better patient outcomes and lower costs.

Relias Learning believes that knowledge and insight into the complexity of behavioral health concerns and the application of evidence-based medicines and services is a pathway to improvements in care while lowering costs.

SO WHAT? Implications for Healthcare Organizations
- A low-touch intervention alerting physicians to deviations from best-practice standards is cost-efficient and cost-saving.
- An educational intervention delivered to prescribers of patients with Schizophrenia may result in improved clinical outcomes and cost savings.
- Patients of prescribers who receive alerts about other patients in their practice may also benefit with reduced healthcare costs.

Read More
For more information, you can find the full study in the journal, Technology & Innovation.