

TASK FORCE UPDATE

SGIM Evidence-based Medicine Task Force: Keeping Evidence at the Forefront of Patient Care

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Dr. Smith is past-chair, Dr. Berger is chair, and Dr. Bowen is chair-elect of the Evidence-based Medicine Task Force.

The Evidence-based Medicine (EBM) Task Force is the longest running task force at SGIM. Keeping best evidence as the focus in patient care has been its mandate throughout the years. This year the task force has shifted its focus toward better understanding the quality of the evidence supporting performance measures since providers and health systems are reimbursed based on their compliance. Our workshop at the annual meeting, titled "Performance Measures in Population Health: Critically Appraising the Evidence," presented some of our work on grading the quality of the evidence and using an education tool in patient care.

In another initiative, we have sought to determine the transparency and quality of the associated evidence supporting the 33 measures used by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to evaluate accountable care organizations. Our findings were presented in a poster, titled "Quality Measures of Accountable Care Organizations: Transparency of the Evidence Base," at the 2016 SGIM Annual Meeting in Hollywood, FL.

A manuscript with the same title is currently in review.

In a related effort, we have worked with SGIM Council to successfully advocate for SGIM representation on the AHIP (American Hospital Insurance Plans)/CMS Core Quality Measures Collaborative Workgroup. As this group determines core measures for the Medicare Value-based Payment System, we wish to ensure fair reimbursement for general internists in accordance with SGIM Council's strategic plan. Beth Smith, MD, past-chair of the SGIM EBM Task Force, is this year's SGIM representative on the Core Quality Measures Collaborative.

We continue to prepare Bottom Line summaries for SGIM. These two-page documents provide an EBM synthesis of a study or systematic review to aid decision making during discussions by physicians and patients (<http://www.sgim.org/web-only/bottom-line>). To align with the current goals of our task force, the emphasis of future Bottom Line summaries will be on measures of quality and performance. Please watch for these in the coming months.

The task force has also partnered with UCLA on a study funded by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) to implement several Choosing Wisely recommendations; it is titled "Implementation and Evaluation of a Choosing Wisely Intervention in LA County to Reduce Unnecessary/Potentially Harmful Care." The task force serves a consulting role in this study. We have created a Bottom Line summary for the appropriate use of imaging in acute low back pain and are working on a Bottom Line summary for appropriate use of antibiotics in acute respiratory conditions.

In keeping with the Choosing Wisely project and in conjunction with the SGIM Awards Committee and the ABIM, the task force is planning to present a new award that will recognize an SGIM member as a Choosing Wisely champion. A call for nominations for this award will go out in the fall. Please start thinking of an SGIM member who best promotes high-value care in keeping with this initiative.

We look forward to working together to keep evidence at the forefront of patient care.

SGIM