

# New Hampshire's Approach to Clinical-Community Linkage

## Barriers to screening counseling and referring for physical activity

1. Time
  - a. Average primary care appointment duration is 16.5 minutes<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Average of 6 health topics discussed in a single primary care visit<sup>2</sup>
  - c. Motivational interviewing for behavior change requires anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes per appointment per health topic<sup>3</sup>
2. Money
  - a. Physical activity screening has no specific Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code for insurance reimbursement
  - b. Physical activity screening is not a Health Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measure
3. Technology
  - a. Direct input of physical activity is not a core feature in any commercially available EHR system
  - b. Cost for adding this feature to a commercial EHR system depends entirely on what vendor and what method selected

## Solutions for NH

1. Physical Activity Vital Sign (PAV) Integration
  - a. The NH Community Health Access Network (CHAN) has form editing abilities within their licensed version of the GE Centricity EHR system for PAV data entry
  - b. The FQHCs using the EHR maintained by CHAN use tablets for patients to enter additional screening forms into the EHR like the PHQ9 for depression screening already
  - c. CHAN also has the ability to create new clinical decision support occurrences within their licensed version of the GE Centricity EHR system
  - d. ICD 10 codes for physical inactivity already exist as supplemental diagnosis codes that can be connected to relevant primary diagnosis codes like arthritis, obesity or diabetes
2. Bi-Directional Referral
  - a. Unite Us is a bidirectional referral platform already selected by hospital networks within NH <https://uniteus.com/>
  - b. Adding WWE providers to this platform allows for fast, trusted referrals to vetted providers just like making a referral to a medical specialty
3. Billing, Coding and Documentation
  - a. Training materials are being developed that show how to document within the EHR medical note at sufficient detail for patient evaluation and management code reimbursement to time spent counseling and referring for physical activity.

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## References

- 1: Young RA, Burge SK, Kumar KA, Wilson JM, Ortiz DF. A Time-Motion Study of Primary Care Physicians' Work in the Electronic Health Record Era. *Fam Med*. 2018;50(2):91-99. <https://doi.org/10.22454/FamMed.2018.184803>.
- 2: Tai-Seale M, McGuire TG, Zhang W. Time allocation in primary care office visits. *Health Serv Res*. 2007;42(5):1871-1894. doi:10.1111/j.1475-6773.2006.00689.x
- 3: Rubak S, Sandbaek A, Lauritzen T, Christensen B. Motivational interviewing: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Br J Gen Pract*. 2005;55(513):305-312.