Request for Research Proposals on Improving Healthcare Delivery

We are seeking proposals that will identify areas where the healthcare system can be changed to improve care without increasing costs *or* to reduce costs without reducing the quality of care. Healthcare providers on the front line of care often recognize opportunities to improve the healthcare delivery system. These opportunities to improve the quality of care or reduce spending may be evident to providers, but unknown to decision makers who set healthcare policy. This request for proposals is an opportunity to use insurance claims data to test ideas on how to improve the healthcare system. *Examples of potential topics would include:*

- Duplication of services
- Unnecessary care
- Lack of access to necessary clinical information by providers
- Limited access to preventive care leading to unnecessary high cost events

The Center for Health Services Research will provide analytic support. Our team of health services researchers will aid the grantee to develop a testable hypothesis, identify data sources, analyze the data and create a presentation for local audiences, an academic conference and submit a publication to a peer review journal.

How to apply: Submit a one-page proposal to eline.altenburg@med.uvm.edu. The proposal should identify the problem (with any historical data you may have), the background of the issue, describe the experience of the applicant and a proposed budget.

Who May Apply: Applications will be considered from members of the Community Practice Divisions of the UVM Health Network Medical Group. Applicants do not need to have a research background, training or experience.

What the grant funds are for: The grant will pay for support for up to 10% FTE for the investigator for one year, travel to Burlington for a presentation to present the results and travel to an academic conference for a presentation. Analytic support from the Center for Health Services Research will include data analysis and assistance in forming the research question, creating a presentation and presenting to the conference.

Selection Criteria: Priority will be given to projects that have a significant statewide impact in terms of the number of people affected or dollars spent. Priority will also be given to projects that can utilize the Vermont All-Payer Claims Database (VHCURES). Projects must be completed within one year.

Deadline: Grants must be submitted by November 30, 2018. Applicants will be notified of the results of the review process by December 31. 2018. Projects are intended to begin on January 1, 2019.

Questions: Submit any questions you may have to Eline van den Broek-Altenburg at eline.altenburg@med.uvm.edu.