

taconic talk

FROM THE TACONIC IPA.
EXCLUSIVE PHYSICIAN NETWORK FOR MVP.

VOLUME 10 | NUMBER 1
SEPT./OCT. 2010

Save a tree: Send us your e-mail address

TIPA and MVP Healthcare are beginning to transition to e-mail for many official purposes, including business and research programs. As a first step to this effort, we are gathering e-mail addresses for all TIPA members. This can be a personal or professional e-mail, but it must be one that is directly monitored by the participating provider. To provide us with your e-mail address—or if you have any questions—please contact Noelle Foster, Ph.D., at research@taconicipa.com.

Taconic IPA Board of Directors

Imtiaz Mallick, MD, *Chairman*

Toni Saychek, MD, *Vice-Chairman*

Mark Fish, *Treasurer*

Gregg Ross Rockower, MD, *Secretary*

Fabio Danisi, MD

David Ennis, MD

Lewis Kohl, DO

David Olikier

Hal Teitelbaum, MD

Taconic IPA Committees & Committee Chairmen

Credentialing Committee

Imtiaz Mallick, MD

Finance Committee

Mark Fish

Medical Council Committee

Paul J. Kaye, MD

Quality Assurance Committee

Michael D. Freedman, MD

A note from the president:

Taconic Talk has been on hiatus, but we're starting fresh this fall with a new look and a new focus. Every other month, we will report on how TIPA is advancing the quality agenda, and provide practices with crucial, must-know information. This issue we look at how TIPA helped 11 practices achieve the highest level of NCQA certification. We will have more information about TIPA's successes over the coming months. I encourage your suggestions and questions; I can be reached by e-mail at jblair@taconicipa.com.



A. John Blair III, MD, FACS, president of TIPA

Part of a revolution: TIPA helps drive Hudson Valley pay-for-performance medical home transformation

Eleven Taconic practices win highest-possible NCQA recognition

TIPA continues to drive quality initiatives, not only in New York, but across the nation.

A notable recent example is TIPA's medical home successes. Eleven Taconic physician practices—representing 236 doctors practicing at 51 sites—achieved National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) Level 3 medical home recognition in the Physician Practice Connections® - Patient Centered Medical Home™ program.

Because of TIPA's pioneering efforts, and those of its partners and local practices, the Hudson Valley has one of the highest concentrations of NCQA-recognized medical homes in the nation: Our contingent represents 44 percent of all the NCQA Level 3 providers in New York, and nearly 10 percent of all Level 3 providers in the U.S. Several more TIPA practices are poised to achieve this recognition later this year.

Also notable is that the initial goal was NCQA Level 2, but every practice exceeded that goal and reached NCQA Level 3 status, the highest possible. They also made a significant impression on NCQA. "The Hudson Valley Initiative has really set the bar on a very strategic process to bring a large number of practices up to the state of the art of the medical home. We applaud their success and urge other communities just beginning the journey to look at this demonstrated success and learn from it," NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane said.

The potential scope of impact on care quality is dramatic. The patient panels at those 11 practices represent nearly half a million Hudson Valley residents, all of whom will benefit from the transformation, regardless of the payer.

A multiyear collaborative process

The pay-for-performance patient-centered medical home transformation was a collaborative process. TIPA funded consulting and practice support resources. MedAllies provided the health IT backbone, THINC managed the overall project and the practices provided staff and resources to make the transformation. Six health plans and IBM offered incentive payments to the participating practices.

TIPA recruited practices to participate, selecting those demonstrating a commitment to quality improvement coupled with robust use of health information technology.

Planning for the project began in 2006 and took two and a half years; it didn't happen overnight. The practice transformation process took place over 10 intense months in 2009. A work plan was created for each practice, and medical home

Continued



coaches and practice leads met every two to three weeks. TIPA provided on-site training, and the leadership of the selected practices met monthly, as the Taconic IPA Medical Council, to share best practices and facilitate solutions. The practices then submitted their data for NCQA consideration. Incentive payments to physicians began in 2010.

What we build, we measure

The work continues, and so does the evaluation of the project. Our medical home efforts have garnered praise and recognition, and results from an ongoing third-party evaluation confirm these efforts are indeed transforming health care delivery in the Hudson Valley.

Taconic IPA is part of an aggressive research partnership with Weill Cornell Medical College to establish monitoring and evaluation with studies that include measures of patient satisfaction, physician satisfaction, quality and outcome measures, and impact of health IT on quality and performance. The results so far have been promising. For example, a recent baseline survey found high levels of patient and physician satisfaction (although both raised questions about improving coordination of care). Subsequent satisfaction surveys will assess changes from baseline data.

Still ahead is an intensive review and validation of data regarding utilization, with physicians and health plan participants.

Meanwhile, the medical homes are moving forward with enhancements, including evidence-based care coordination initiatives. It's a process of continual improvement, and it's not always easy. But Taconic physicians continue to move forward, and so will TIPA. We will continue to support these providers as they transform health care delivery and advance the quality agenda throughout the Hudson Valley.

Practices earning NCQA PPC-PCMH Level 3 recognition (as of September 2010)

- Bridge Street Family Medicine in Saugerties
- Clarkstown Pediatric Associates, headquartered in New City
- Community Primary Care in Hopewell Junction
- Crystal Run, headquartered in Middletown
- Hudson River HealthCare, headquartered in Peekskill
- Hudson Valley Primary Care in Wappingers Falls
- Imtiaz A. Mallick, MD, FACP, in Fishkill
- Institute for Family Health, Mid-Hudson Region, based in Kingston
- Mount Kisco Medical Group, headquartered in Mount Kisco
- Open Door Family Medical Group, headquartered in Ossining
- WestMed Medical Group, headquartered in Purchase

News to know

CMS, NCQA visit Taconic practices

Representatives from CMS and NCQA visited the Hudson Valley last month to meet with Hudson Valley Initiative leaders and to tour several of the TIPA practices that achieved NCQA Level 3 certification: WestMed Group in Rye, Bridge Street Medical in Saugerties and Hudson River HealthCare in Beacon.

Eugene Heslin, MD, testifies on Capitol Hill about meaningful use

If a small family practice in the Hudson Valley can use new health IT tools to deliver safer, more efficient health care, so, too, can practices across the nation. That's the message Taconic physician Eugene Heslin, MD, delivered to the House Committee on Ways and Means' health subcommittee in July. The panel invited Heslin, head physician at Bridge Street Medical Group in Saugerties, to testify about meaningful use. His testimony generated media attention, including an article in *Government Health IT*. Watch it at www.youtube.com/user/waysandmeansdems#p/u/3/g4C098UsAKc.

TIPA president quoted in HV Biz

A recent *HV Biz* article on medical homes in the Hudson Valley praised the model in general and Hudson Valley's approach in particular, noting that physicians in the Hudson Valley are among the earliest—and most successful—adopters. It quotes TIPA President A. John Blair III, MD, FACS, who credits teamwork for the region's success. "You have the synergistic and complementary aspect of unique and distinct organizations working together for a common purpose, better health for all the Hudson Valley."

Taconic IPA's Mark Foster, MD, appears on the cover of *Modern Healthcare*

TIPA physician Mark Foster, MD, appeared on the cover of the June 14 *Modern Healthcare*, which featured an article on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation: *Innovation expedition—As the CMS gears up its new laboratory for payment and quality control, excitement is mixed with anxiety*. Foster's practice, Hudson Valley Primary Care, is one of the 11 practices that successfully achieved NCQA Level 3 medical home recognition.

Keep up with the Hudson Valley Initiative

Taconic IPA is part of the Hudson Valley Initiative (HVI), an effort to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of health care in the community. In addition to Taconic IPA, the Hudson Valley Initiative includes two other organizations: The Taconic Health Information Network and Community, or THINC, and MedAllies. To learn more, visit www.hudsonvalleyinitiative.com. There, you can read more about HVI and subscribe to HVI's free monthly e-newsletter, the *Connector*. You can also watch a video about HVI: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HX9ZF6Ebv0l>.