

Elder Health

BACKGROUND

Older adults are among the fastest growing age groups and are at high risk for developing chronic conditions and related disabilities. Accordingly, preventive health services are critical in maintaining the quality of life and wellness of older adults. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act includes provisions that offer seniors a range of preventive services, such as screenings, with no cost-sharing under Medicare. Furthermore, Healthy People 2020 indicate efforts to improve health of the elder population include coordinated care, self-management of care, establishing quality measures, and identifying research and training opportunities for providers and individuals to meet the needs of older adults. According to the Lehigh Valley Community Study Survey, the two major needs among seniors are access to quality care and caregiver education. Approximately 3% of the respondents reported forgoing medical care over the past year due to cost and 4% missed or postponed care due to high shared costs

OBJECTIVES

- Increase the proportion of older adults with chronic health conditions who report confidence in managing their illness (Healthy People 2020).
- Increase the proportion of health care providers with geriatric healthcare capabilities.
- Decrease the number of potentially preventable readmission rates for Medicare patients.