



ADDRESSING PATIENTS' SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH NEEDS TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND REDUCE COST

Health care organizations are increasingly being called upon to help address their patients' non-medical risk factors and condition, known as social determinants of health. These can include unsafe living conditions, social stress, low health literacy, lack of transportation, and poor health behaviors, are critical in determining patients' overall health and well-being. In addition, these social determinants complicate care and are difficult to resolve within a typical office visit.

Eskenazi Health offers social workers, dietitians, medical-legal partnership, and other services on a co-located basis at primary care sites to address patients' social determinants of health needs. Collectively, these services are called "wraparound" services.

Do wraparound services reduce utilization and save costs?

Indiana University Center for Health Policy researchers, Dr. Joshua R. Vest, Dean Paul Halverson and Dr. Nir Menachemi partnered with Eskenazi Health to rigorously evaluate the relationship between wraparound services and patient outcomes.

Using 11 years of data on more than 14,000 adult patients, the research team found that receipt of wraparound services:

- Reduced the expected number of hospitalizations in the next year by 7%.
- Reduced the expected number of emergency department visits in the next year by 5%.
- Resulted in an annual savings of \$1.4 to \$2.4 million in potential hospital costs (or \$76 to \$131) per patient receiving wraparound services.

Addressing patients' social determinants of health can be an effective approach for health organizations working to improve population health.



To read the full study, visit go.iu.edu/288a.

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"Indianapolis Provider's Use Of Wraparound Services Associated With Reduced Hospitalizations And Emergency Department Visits." *Health Affairs*, vol. 37, no. 10, 2018.

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Center for Health Policy researchers are available to conduct studies. Contact Dr. Joshua Vest for more information.