

ALL IN
FOR
GOOD

Increasing access for the under-insured and uninsured

A free clinic is reducing the cycle of emergency care



Medication Access and Safety for the Uninsured

West Virginia Health Right
Charleston, WV

Through partnerships with three area hospitals, this clinic has become the medical home for nearly 500 uninsured and underinsured patients, and has dramatically reduced emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

Overview of organization

West Virginia Health Right is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that offers comprehensive primary and specialty care to more than 18,000 uninsured or underinsured and medically underserved patients every year. Here, area physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, nurses and other medical professionals volunteer to provide an array of medical services at no cost.

West Virginia Health Right provides access to free medications for its uninsured patients through its in-house pharmacy, with over 250 prescriptions filled every day. The organization operates the largest free adult dental clinic in the state, and also offers ophthalmology services, behavioral health services and health education programs.

"The cycle of emergency care is especially harmful to people with chronic diseases that can be controlled with medication therapies. We have learned that open access to our clinic is the best way to radically reduce the use of hospital emergency departments among these patients."

**Angie Settle, DNP, APRN,
BC, FNP**
CEO/Executive Director



Project summary

With its first year of E3 Grant funding from the Cardinal Health Foundation, West Virginia Health Right, the state's oldest and largest free clinic, established its ***Medication Access and Safety for the Uninsured*** program, designed to increase access to medications and follow-up primary care for low-income patients.

In creating the program, West Virginia Health Right partnered with Charleston Area Medical Center to ensure that uninsured patients had immediate access, through Health Right's on-site pharmacy and its charitable mail order pharmacy, to prescribed medications upon discharge.

During the first year, West Virginia Health Right dispensed 6,788 prescription medicines to patients in the program—at a total value of over \$3.3 million. (The medications were provided at no cost to the patients and minimal cost to the clinic, as most were provided free by pharmaceutical companies.)

By the end of that first year, the program decreased overall emergency department use by 27.7 percent over the previous year. (After just six months, there was a nearly 22 percent decrease in the number of emergency

department visits for non-emergency/non-life threatening reasons.)

In year two, with additional E3 funding from the Cardinal Health Foundation, West Virginia Health Right expanded the program to provide similar access for low-income patients discharged from two hospitals within the Thomas Health System, Thomas Memorial Hospital and St Francis Hospital.

Throughout the second year, West Virginia Health Right tracked 500 patients who had been referred for follow-up care after having used the emergency department.

The program decreased emergency department use by 67 percent, and decreased hospitalizations by 38 percent. Within the second project year, 58 percent of the patients did NOT return to an emergency department. Of those 42 percent who did return to an emergency department for care, only 5 percent were hospitalized.

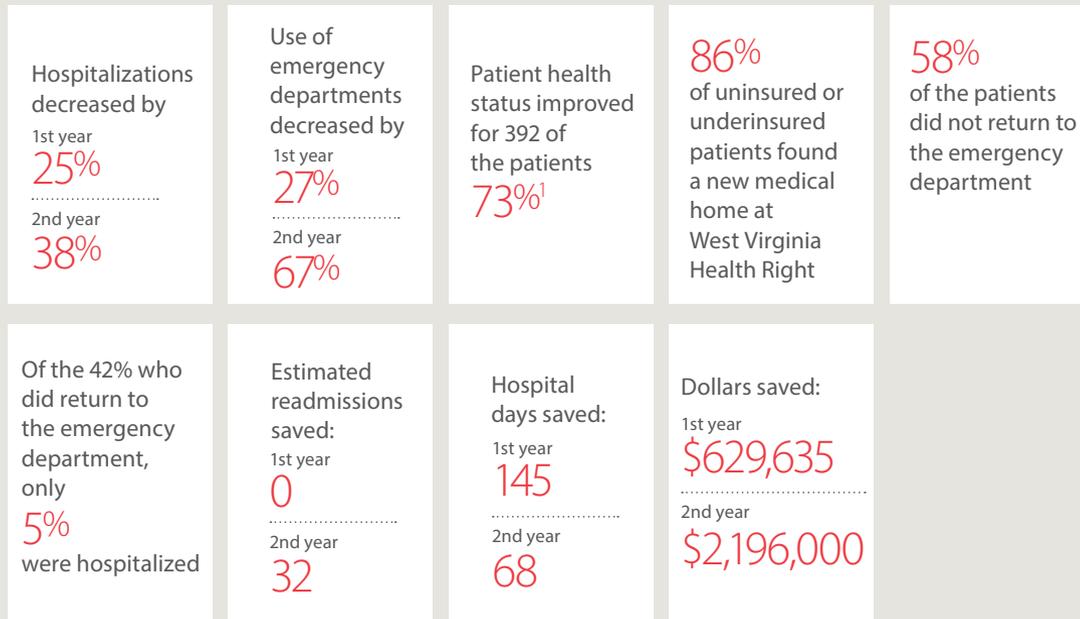
A total of 9,784 prescriptions were dispensed at no cost to the patients (total value of \$4.5 million) in year two, reducing the gap in medication accessibility for the uninsured or underinsured by 38 percent.

E3 GRANT CASE STUDY

Project objectives

- Ensure immediate and consistent medication therapies for uninsured and underinsured patients following discharge from emergency departments
- Reduce hospital readmission rates for the uninsured and underinsured
- Reduce use of emergency departments for the uninsured and underinsured

Results (for 500 participants)



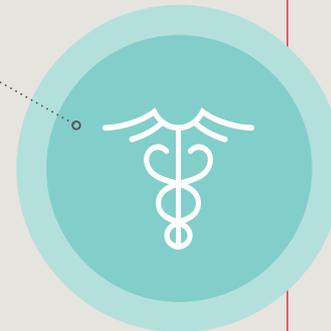
¹ Health status measures include BMI, blood pressure, blood glucose (and HgbA1c for diabetic patients) and a cholesterol panel. West Virginia Health Right also tracks smoking status to include smoking cessation in improved health status.

The summary results are estimates that have been separately prepared and provided by each individual grantee and were based on one year periods unless otherwise noted.

E3 GRANT CASE STUDY

Project continuation

Medication Access and Safety for the Uninsured continues to serve patients from the Charleston Area Medical Center and the Thomas Health System, supported with a variety of private funding as well as various pharmaceutical companies' patient assistance programs. ●



West Virginia Health Right partners with three area hospitals to ensure that uninsured and underinsured patients have immediate access.

**West Virginia Health
Right leadership**

**Angie Settle, DNP,
APRN, BC, FNP**
CEO/Executive Director

E3 GRANT CASE STUDY

About the E3 Grant Program

Since 2008, through its E3 Grant Program, the Cardinal Health Foundation has invested in hundreds of healthcare organizations across the country.

We support a wide array of patient safety work with a focus on accelerating the rate of change with two goals:

- Improved patient outcomes
- Reduced healthcare costs

Because of the complexities in healthcare and healthcare systems, it takes an average of 17 years for evidence-based practices to be fully implemented into healthcare practices, according to *The National Institutes of Health*. Within a year or two, some of our grantees are affecting change, eliminating errors and creating lasting improvement. They are reducing readmissions to hospitals, reducing lengths-of-stay and, most importantly, saving lives. For more information, visit cardinalhealth.com/patientsafetygrants.

About the Cardinal Health Foundation

The Cardinal Health Foundation supports local, national and international programs that improve healthcare efficiency, effectiveness and excellence and the overall wellness of the communities where the Cardinal Health (NYSE:CAH) nearly 37,000 employees live and work.

The Cardinal Health Foundation also offers grants to encourage community service among its employees and works through international agencies to donate much-needed medical supplies and funding to those who need them in times of disaster. Cardinal Health is #AllInForGood.



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