**Integrating Physical Therapy Services in the Patient Centered Medical Home**

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The leading cause of medical encounters in the Military Health System (MHS) is musculoskeletal disorders. This places a high demand on both primary care and specialty services resulting in a considerable amount of purchased care within the MHS. The Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is a platform for multi-disciplinary integration to promote superior medical care, however, physical therapy services have yet to be incorporated into this system. Fort Belvoir Community Hospital (FBCH) embedded a physical therapist within the PCMH in April 2013 resulting in a 37% decrease in network deferrals and annual savings of nearly 1 million dollars. Within this clinic, beneficiaries benefitted from a collaborative treatment approach between the primary care and PT staff and early access to PT services. In April 2015, the Integrated PCMH PT clinic transitioned to direct access, providing FBCH beneficiaries with musculoskeletal disorders the choice to have an appointment with a physical therapist without a referral from their Primary Care Manager. Physical Therapists within the MHS have had direct access privileges since the 1970’s, yet utilization of this capability has been limited over the past two decades with the implementation of an HMO model of care. Patients with musculoskeletal disorders who are seen by a physical therapist at their initial visit have higher satisfaction, require fewer medical visits, utilize less diagnostic imaging, and have fewer non-PT related appointments with no evidence of harm or negative outcomes (Desmeules, 2012). Participants will learn the operational procedures of the FBCH PCMH Integrated PT Clinic model, recommended resources to enhance success of integrating PT within the PCMH, lessons learned from FBCH, and impact of direct access PT care on patient quality and purchased care costs.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will be able to discuss the implications on access to care and quality by incorporating physical therapy services within the PCMH.  
2. Participants will be able to discuss the operational procedures of the FBCH PCMH Integrated Physical Therapy Clinic model.  
3. Participants will be able to discuss the implications on purchased care and population health by incorporating physical therapy services in the PCMH.