

Southeast Michigan Beacon Community (Detroit, MI)



Overview and Goals

The [Southeast Michigan Beacon Community \(SEMBC\)](#) is one of 17 Beacon Communities building and strengthening local health IT infrastructure and testing innovative approaches to make measurable improvements in health, care and cost. [Meaningful Use](#) of electronic health records (EHR) is the foundation of the exciting work in each community. Funded by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, SEMBC is using technology to reduce the devastating effects of diabetes in its region by:



- Increasing the number of diabetes patients who receive the recommended standards of testing and examinations and improving their care coordination
- Improving patient and provider engagement for patients who have diabetes and reducing the cost associated with their care
- Decreasing patients' non-urgent utilization of hospital emergency department services
- Reducing disparities in the quality of care for diabetic patients related to gender, insurer, or race
- Sharing of health information across disparate systems.

Partners

SEMBC’s major partners include: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Beaumont Health System, Center for Population Health, City of Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion, CMS Region V Office, Community Health and Social Services Center, Detroit Regional Chamber, Detroit Medical Center, Ernst & Young, The Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Greater Detroit Area Health Council, Health Alliance Plan, Henry Ford Health System, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Mercy Primary Care Center, Michigan Department of Community Health, Michigan State Medical Society, Michigan State University, Molina Health Care, Michigan Peer Review Organization (MPRO) (Michigan’s Quality Improvement Organization), National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, Oakwood Health System, Southeastern Michigan Health Association, St. Clair County Health Department, St. John Providence Health System, Team Detroit, Trinity Health, Voices of Detroit Initiative, Voxiva, Wayne County Medical Society, Wayne State University.

Southeast Michigan Beacon Community Background	
Total grant award	\$16,224,370 over 3 years
Lead grantee	Southeastern Michigan Health Association (SEMHA)
Geography	Cities of Detroit, Highland Park, Hamtramck, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights
# of lives affected by Beacon interventions	183,559
# of providers involved in Beacon interventions	120
# of hospital partners	6
# of insurance partners	5
# of FQHCs and community health clinics	11

“The Southeast Michigan Beacon Community has really established itself as a positive force in Wayne County and the Metro Detroit area. Its efforts to promote the use of health information technology to accelerate clinical transformation are helping establish a foundation on which the community may build on for years to come. SEMBC is making real progress on healthcare quality improvement and toward better health at a lower cost.”

- Olga Dazzo, Director, Michigan Department of Community Health

For a patient story, [click here](#).

Strategies and Achievements

Building and Strengthening Health IT Infrastructure

Approach: SEMBC developed [BeaconLink2Health](#), its health information exchange (HIE), as a resource for the region's entire healthcare delivery continuum. The strategy, architecture and design of BeaconLink2Health evolved during nearly a year of intense, hands-on collaboration and planning among Southeast Michigan's health IT leaders that produced a solution that builds upon existing HIE and health IT investments in the community while allowing for HIE platform autonomy. This HIE strategy enables the region to capitalize on the collective contributions of all BeaconLink2Health participants.

Progress:

- Data-sharing agreements are in place with 11 organizations, including one health system with multiple affiliates, 23 practice sites, and 71 physicians.
- Interface development has begun with two electronic health record (EHR) vendors and one hospital with multiple affiliates.
- Interface development has begun with one EHR for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).
- Privacy and security policies and procedures are in place, approved by the SEMBC board.

Improving Health, Care and Costs

Approach: SEMBC uses its clinical transformation work across primary care and emergency care sites, among others, to deliver cost-effective, evidenced-based care to improve community health. SEMBC is assisting a total of 47 primary care practices (private, hospital affiliated, FQHCs and free clinics) in their clinical transformation efforts. Activities include EMR/EHR utilization, use of alerts and reminders, workflow optimization, patient education,

Early Results: By the Numbers*

In SEMBC, compared to baseline measures, Q1 2012 (the first quarter of intervention), High Impact Clinical Measures are encouraging:

- Diabetic patients with foot exams/screenings increased 29%
- Diabetic patients with LDL-C (cholesterol screenings) tests increased 5%
- Diabetic patients who had A1c testing increased 5%
- Diabetic patients with blood pressure readings <140/90 increased 6%

*Number of diabetic patients represented ranges from 58,887 to 78,909. Early improvements in performance measure results likely reflect a combination of improved data capture and clinical quality improvement

and patient health navigator (PHN) integration. In addition, SEMBC is working with local emergency departments to provide free screenings for elevated blood-sugar levels (hemoglobin A1c levels) to identify new patients with undiagnosed diabetes and pre-diabetes and direct them to appropriate care settings, including SEMBC-affiliated practices, patient health navigators, and other community resources.

Progress:

- Between February and July 2012, more than 2,500 patients not previously identified as diabetic or pre-diabetic were screened at Detroit Receiving Hospital.
- Between April and July 2012, the emergency department at St. John Hospital referred more than 500 patients with diabetes to social workers for care coordination.
- About 35% of patients screened were found to be diabetic or pre-diabetic.

Testing Innovative Approaches

Approach: SEMBC is deploying [Txt4Health](#) (a text message-based service) to help individuals better understand their risk of diabetes and become more informed about minor lifestyle changes that can lead to a healthier life. Txt4Health is available throughout Southeast Michigan’s seven-county region (as well as in the New Orleans and Cincinnati Beacon Communities). Participants text the word “HEALTH” to 300400, complete a diabetes risk assessment, and receive a customized series of text messages with educational information, exercise and weight loss tracking, and links to local health and lifestyle resources. Txt4health is part of SEMBC’s [“Fighting D in the D” campaign](#) – a public-facing campaign that encompasses the efforts from a broad range of stakeholders and partners in Southeast Michigan.

Progress:

- Over 1,400 patients were enrolled in txt4Health as of August 2012.
- The txt4Health initiative has received broad acceptance across the Southeast Michigan community from stakeholders including: public health entities, non-profit groups, and payers, as well as providers in hospitals, FQHCs, private practices, and other settings.

**For more information on the Southeast Michigan Beacon Community, visit:
www.semhc.org.**

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