



Seven Best Practices:

1. **Electronic Health Information** – Adoption of an electronic emergency department information system on a statewide basis to create and act on a common, integrated plan of care related to patients with high needs (5 or more visits in a rolling calendar year) by all emergency rooms, payors, mental health clinics, and is sent to primary care providers.
2. **Patient Education** – Dissemination of patient education materials by hospitals and payors to help patients understand and utilize the appropriate resources for care. This would include plans sharing with patients and providers where they can get off hours coverage for primary or urgent care including through nurse call lines and having this information easily available on their web sites.
3. **Identify Frequent Users of the Emergency Department and EMS** – Frequent emergency department (ER) or EMS users are identified as those patients seen or transported to the ER five (5) times within the past 12 months. Hospitals should identify those frequent ER users upon arrival to the emergency department and develop and coordinate case management, including utilization of care plans. Plans, EMS, and mental health clinics will work with patients with five or more visits to identify and overcome core issue which is documented in statewide information system.
4. **Develop Patient Care Plans for Frequent ER Users** – A process to assist frequent ER users with their care plans, such as contacting the primary care provider within 72-96 hours and/or notifying the PCP of an ER visit if no follow-up is required. Payors will provide the information system with the names of the primary care or group for Medicaid patients and provider fax number.
5. **Narcotic Guidelines** – Reduce drug-seeking and drug-dispensing to frequent ER users through implementation of guidelines that incorporate the WA-ACEP guidelines.
6. **Prescription Monitoring** – ER Physician enrollment in the state's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The PMP is an electronic online database used to collect data on patients who are prescribed controlled substances ensuring coordination of prescription drug prescribing practices.
7. **Use of Feedback Information** – Designation of a hospital emergency department physician and hospital staff responsible for reviewing the reports of frequent ER users to ensure interventions are working, including a process of reporting to executive leadership.