



Case Study: Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions

How a hospital organized, standardized, and accelerated its “Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions” quality improvement project using Ovid® Synthesis Clinical Evidence Manager

The Challenge

Heart failure (HF) is the leading cause of hospital readmissions within 30 days. The hospital had experienced a heart failure 30-day readmission rate of 21% across its cardiovascular program consistently over three years.

It also recognized that medical residents provide most of the physician-driven interventions with the hospital's CHF population, yet were rarely involved in this population's discharge and transition planning. It decided to undertake a QI project to answer this evidence-based question: Does medical resident involvement in CHF patient transitions reduce readmissions?

It was difficult for the team to conduct its QI project without a comprehensive view of all related ongoing and historical projects. It had no standardized workflows to access and use, making it difficult to collaborate, determine if the project was on track, find the most applicable literature, quickly conduct critical appraisal, and broadly disseminate its findings.

The team needed a workflow management solution that raised its QI project to a new level with unparalleled organizational, literature search and review, and summary capabilities.

The Solution: Ovid® Synthesis Clinical Evidence Manager

The team chose the easy-to-use, cloud-based Ovid® Synthesis Clinical Evidence Manager because it offered capabilities previously unavailable to its QI, EBP, and research projects. Using templates provided by the application, the team thoroughly documented the project details, the five team members, the description of the problem, the area of focus, and the EBP question. The solution's project dashboard enabled the team to see a centralized repository of all QI, EBP, and research projects, confirming that it was not duplicating past efforts with this CHF/medical resident QI project.

Ovid® Synthesis Clinical Evidence Manager expertly guided the team members throughout the project, making it less intimidating for both new and experienced QI project participants.



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It tracked their progress every step of the way, and promoted team collaboration via in-application alerts and comments, such as “Could we add the source of the readmission rate data and an estimate of the per-patient cost?”

The solution’s integrated, clinically oriented literature search — with a full-text retrieval feature — offered filters to help the team quickly narrow its results to the most relevant content. It pulled full text from multiple sources, including Ovid® subscribed content, seamlessly importing the results into the platform.

Heart & Lung: The Journal of Acute & Critical Care, European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing, Chest, and Critical Care Nurse were just some of the journals whose content was identified as pertinent to the project.

With a dual-screen view, the application’s literature appraisal tool assisted the team in identifying the level of evidence they had found, as well as critical takeaways from the most applicable articles.

Ovid® Synthesis Clinical Evidence Manager then generated evidence tables on the fly, comparing and summarizing the study findings:

- Resident-led QI studies impact quality outcomes.
- Resident participation in comprehensive discharge interventions substantially impact quality metrics.
- Residents benefit from increasing mentorship and becoming aware of patient support resources.

The Results

Reporting in Word, PowerPoint and Excel, the team used the solution to easily disseminate its recommendation: **that sufficient evidence existed to pursue resident-led studies in reducing CHF readmissions and resident role in caring for CHF patients during discharge.**

Thanks to the streamlined process provided by the application, the QI team was able to demonstrate with certainty that the studies were a priority to support the hospital’s strategic areas of focus: cost savings, patient safety, and patient, physician, and staff satisfaction.



About Ovid® Synthesis Clinical Evidence Manager

Ovid® Synthesis Clinical Evidence Manager is the only solution offering a single, cohesive view of projects across the institution. Managing project workflows and making literature searches and appraisals for QI, EBP, and research projects more efficient ensures that your clinical practice improvements are high quality and based on the latest research insights.

Wolters Kluwer’s Customer Engagement Team is fully available for personalized and customized support for any implementation, training requirement, or other need that you may have.

Please feel free to contact support@ovid.com or your Ovid account manager for more information.

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