

| General impact metrics | Measures | Ascertainment | Why measure this? | Priority level (high/low) | Timing** |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Financial | | | | | |
| Start-up costs | Project management (staff hours, consultant hours, expenses, travel, training) Time/effort of PCPs, specialists, referral coordinators (i.e., workgroups, training) Technology costs (platform, licenses, contracts) | Self reported by grantees and their partners; and ascertained by provider survey | Identify initial investment | High | one-time, phase 3 |
| Ongoing costs | Hardware/software licensing \$ Staffing to support system (salary, effort) PCP/specialist incentives/payment | Self reported by grantees and their partners; and ascertained by provider survey | Identify ongoing project expenses | High | one-time, phase 3 |
| Utilization | # specialty visits/population served (in-person + eConsult patients) diagnostic testing/population served pre vs. post implementation (testing entities to be determined by eConsult specialty) Total # of referrals (eConsults + regular referrals) compared to same season previous year | Passive: eCR platform & health system metrics | Indirect measure for business case Unanticipated costs | High High | ongoing, phases 3-4 |
| System efficiency | % of in-person consults that receive preconsultative guidance before in-person visit (>1 avoided visit) % of eConsults never scheduled (likely >1 avoided visit) and why eConsult specialty clinic show-rate (pre-eConsult vs. post) | Passive: eCR platform & health system metrics | Direct measure for business case | High High Low | ongoing, phases 3-4 |
| Population health and clinical performance | | | | | |
| Overall population in health system | Demographics (ex: age, gender, race/ethnicity, language, insurance status) of the population served Demographics (MD vs. NP) of providers in the system PCP referral rates (eConsult + regular consult)/standardized panel size Characteristics of the health delivery system and primary care clinics PCP turnover Salaried vs. FFS specialist providers Existence of referral coordinating center or referral managers for PCCs | Passive: health system metrics | Determine generalizability, particularly for health plans | High, but data depend on partnerships | one-time, phase 2 |
| Population directly served by eConsult | Demographics (insurance status) of patients who received an eConsult % of patients who receive specialty expertise via eConsult, normalized to clinic volume # of specialties offering eConsult and what they are | Passive: eCR platform & health system metrics | Measure of program reach and impact on equity | Low High High | ongoing, phase 3-4 |
| Population indirectly served by eConsult | PCP ability to manage eConsult specialty conditions | PCP survey | Indirect measure of program impact | High | one-time, phase 3 |
| Effectiveness of eConsult process | eReferral disposition (% converted to in-person visit; % that are never scheduled and why); linked back to system efficiency) # of exchanges (ping back by specialist) eConsult Clarity of PCP vs. specialist role in consultation (i.e., PCP preference for eConsult vs. in-person) | Passive: eCR platform (if included in eCR system) | Direct measure of program impact | High Low High | ongoing, phase 3-4 |
| Provider adoption | % of PCPs that submit at least 1 eConsult; characteristics of PCP affiliation with specialists Clinical entities for which PCP expect eConsult vs. traditional consults Use of eConsult for diagnostic vs. treatment guidance Time spent doing eReferral for PCPs and specialists | Passive: eCR platform (numerator) and health system metrics (Denominator and affiliation data) PCP survey PCP survey PCP and specialist surveys | Adoption drives impact | High | survey is one-time, phase 3; PCP use is ongoing, phases 3-4 |
| Efficiency of in-person visits | Ease of specialist identification of reason for consult for scheduled eConsults vs. traditional referrals Specialist identification of initial evaluation for eConsults vs. traditional referrals | Specialist survey | Impact on efficiency; important for adoption by specialists | High | one-time, phase 3 |
| Patient safety | % of eConsults leading to referral that were not anticipated by PCP (discordance in diagnosis/need for in-person visit) Unclosed loop-PCP: % unscheduled unopened eConsults or not closed after 6 months by PCP (if no active close button) Unclosed loop-specialty: % of eConsults that did not receive a specialist response | Passive: eCR platform (if exists) or PCP survey Passive: eCR platform Passive: eCR platform | Unanticipated impact | High | ongoing, phases 3-4 |
| Access to specialty care | Average time to eConsult response Time to third next available in-person appt for eConsult specialties (3mo pre vs. post implementation) Referrals to outside specialists for patients were not scheduled after eConsult review; each system will have to define what "outside" means | Passive: health system metrics Chart review | Direct measure of program impact Unanticipated impact | High Low | ongoing, phases 3-4 |
| Patient experience | | | | | |
| Patient experience | Satisfaction (vs. unsatisfaction) with access to specialty care in general Concern re: limitations in care Patient acceptability of having an eConsult ... for preconsultative guidance ... in lieu of an in-person specialty care visit Travel/time saved by patients for avoided clinic visits | Case series of phone interviews of 3-5 patients per specialty who received and did not receive an eConsult | Spread/generalizability; Stories provide nice examples for policy makers re: impact | Low | one-time, phase 2 |
| Provider and care team experience | | | | | |
| Provider satisfaction | PCP satisfaction/dissatisfaction for clinical purposes integration with workflow and amount of time spent ease of use/technology access to specialists appropriateness of reimbursement (if any) Specialist satisfaction/dissatisfaction for clinical purposes integration with workflow and amount of time spent ease of use/technology appropriateness of reimbursement (if any) relationship with primary care providers | PCP survey Specialist survey | Direct measure of program sustainability | High | one-time, phase 3 |
| Staff satisfaction | MEA/RN/referral coordinator satisfaction/dissatisfaction integration with workflow Ease of use/technology | Survey | | | |