

Aligning Forces for Quality: Transforming Care at the Bedside Collaborative Fact Sheet

Program Facts

1. What is Aligning Forces for Quality: Transforming Care at the Bedside Collaborative?

Aligning Forces for Quality: Transforming Care at the Bedside Collaborative (TCAB Collaborative) is one of several national collaboratives that AF4Q offers to health professionals and hospitals in AF4Q communities.

Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q) is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that aims to help targeted communities across the country set and achieve ambitious goals to improve the quality of their health care in ways that matter to patients and families.

Aligning Forces for Quality: Transforming Care at the Bedside Collaborative (TCAB Collaborative) is an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that engages nurses and frontline staff to improve the quality and safety of patient care on medical and surgical units in hospitals. The TCAB Collaborative is part of the Foundation's *Aligning Forces for Quality* initiative that brings together those who get care, give care and pay for care to improve the quality of health care in entire communities. Technical Assistance for the TCAB Collaborative is provided by the American Organization of Nurse Executives. George Washington University serves as the National Program Office providing oversight throughout the collaborative.

Transforming Care at the Bedside (TCAB) — initiated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) — was originally launched as a pilot program with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). Since the program's beginnings in 2003, TCAB has served as a learning laboratory for change, with a focus on improving the delivery of care in medical/surgical units — where an estimated 35 to 40 percent of unexpected hospital deaths occur and nurse turnover is highest.

The goal of TCAB is to engage front-line nurses and leaders at all levels of the organization to:

- improve the quality and safety of patient care on medical and surgical units;
- increase the vitality and retention of nurses;
- engage and improve the patient's and their families' experience of care; and
- improve the effectiveness of the entire care team

TCAB is not a traditional quality improvement program. One primary characteristic that sets TCAB apart from others is its focus on engaging front-line staff and unit managers. Many transformational care delivery ideas are initiated directly from nurses and other bedside care team members. The TCAB process empowers these care givers to identify where change is needed, suggest and test potential solutions and decide whether the innovations are implemented.

2. What is required of participating hospitals?

Applicants should be able to demonstrate their commitment to the following activities.

- Prior to the initial training the hospitals will complete a readiness and TCAB strategic alignment assessment.
- Each hospital's TCAB team will need to attend the initial training session and all in-person meetings. The Chief Nurse Officer and Nurse Manager need to attend all meetings.
- Travel expenses to and from the meeting will need to be covered by the hospital participants.
- All of the hospitals will collect and report data on three required measures, falls, falls with harm, and hospital acquired pressure ulcers stratified by race and ethnicity. Innovation logs will be submitted on a monthly basis and quarterly progress reports.
- The TCAB teams are required to attend the monthly conference calls

For more information about the Minnesota TCAB project, please contact Mark Sonneborn at the Minnesota Hospital Association (msonneborn@mnhospitals.org).