

## **Healthy Hearts in Manufacturing**

### **What is Healthy Hearts in Manufacturing (HHM)?**

- A research program that collaborates with worksite health clinics to improve heart health and reduce disparities in cardiovascular care.
- HHM builds upon a proven intervention that has shown great impact in the primary care setting. It has not yet been tested in worksite health clinics.

### **What does HHM entail?**

- Worksite clinics are provided with tailored, evidence-based on-site and virtual coaching, electronic health record support, and data feedback and benchmarking.
- The research team will evaluate the effectiveness of these supports by tracking use of best care practices, changes in patient health, and cost savings to the company.

### **Why focus on manufacturing?**

- Manufacturing communities have high rates of cardiovascular disease and the risk factors that contribute to heart disease (e.g., smoking, physical inactivity, obesity, diabetes).
- In many smaller communities, manufacturers are the largest employers and have a vested interest in the health and wellbeing of their workers and communities.

### **Who will participate?**

- We are recruiting manufacturing companies to adopt HHM in their worksite health clinics.
- To be eligible, the worksite health clinics must provide basic preventive or primary care and use an electronic health record.

### **Will worksite clinics receive monetary compensation?**

- No. There will be no exchange of funds between the company/worksite health clinic and Northwestern University.

### **What is the time commitment?**

- Worksite health clinic staff will receive in-person and online coaching for 1 year (approximately 2 hours per month) from experienced practice facilitators.
- Clinic staff, a representative from human resources, a representative from the vendor (if the clinic is operated by a third party), and a small number of patients will participate in periodic (1-2 times/year) interviews and/or steering committee meetings with the study team.

### **What data will be needed for the evaluation?**

- The practice facilitators will monitor changes in care delivery and patient outcomes using the clinics' electronic medical records systems. The company will NOT have to provide claims data.

All evaluation data can be drawn from the electronic medical records system. Data use agreements will be established.

- No patient identifiers (e.g., names, addresses, employee numbers, social security numbers) will be collected.

#### **What if the worksite health clinic is operated by an outside vendor?**

- Northwestern will work with both the company and the vendor to develop a customized intervention that suits both organizations.
- Both the company and the vendor will participate in steering committee meetings.

#### **What will the companies receive for participating?**

- Free, tailored coaching on evidence-based cardiovascular care practices for worksite health clinics.
- A report on cardiovascular care outcomes in the worksite clinic before and after the intervention, as well as similar information for a confidential peer manufacturing company.
- A cost effectiveness analysis of the intervention, which will provide estimates of cost savings associated with improvements in care delivery and patient outcomes.

#### **Will the names of companies or vendors be identified in reports?**

- No. We take confidentiality very seriously. We will not report the names of companies or vendors in any of our presentations or publications. We will not disclose the names of participating companies or vendors to anyone outside of the project team.
- We will establish data use agreements that specify this confidentiality policy.

#### **Who is leading the study?**

- Northwestern University's research program on [Manufacturing and Health](#) and the [Center for Health Information Partnerships](#) will lead the study.

#### **When will the study begin?**

- If selected for funding by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), the worksite clinic supports would begin in early 2023.

#### **What does the Northwestern team need now?**

- A signed letter of interest, rather than a letter of commitment, which Northwestern can draft. If the study is funded, then we will have further conversations before the company makes a final commitment and data use agreements are signed.

#### **How do I learn more?**

- Contact Megan McHugh, PhD, Director of Northwestern University's research program on Manufacturing and Health at [megan-mchugh@northwestern.edu](mailto:megan-mchugh@northwestern.edu) or 703-867-3629.