

Quality Improvement Initiative Enrolls 5,000 Parkinson's Patients

There are now 5,000 people with Parkinson's enrolled in the National Parkinson Foundation's Quality Improvement Initiative (NPF-QII), the largest-ever study of clinical care and outcomes created to improve the standard of care of people with Parkinson's. The NPF-QII uses a model proven to dramatically increase longevity in both cardiovascular surgery and cystic fibrosis. Twenty NPF Centers of Excellence participate in the study.

Analysis of the NPF-QII data has already yielded important findings which could improve the quality of patient care across NPF Centers and beyond. Two studies were presented at the American Academy of Neurology's (AAN) 64th Annual Meeting in New Orleans in April 2012 and 10 more at the Movement Disorder Society's (MDS) 16th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in Dublin, Ireland in June 2012.

"By measuring treatments and their outcomes for this comprehensive group, we can improve care outcomes for all patients with Parkinson's," said Eugene Nelson, DSc, MPH, Director, Population Health Measurement Program, Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice.

"Thus far, NPF-QII has shown us that care practices vary at expert centers and that these differences affect people's quality of life. Using the data collected, we plan to create evidence-based recommendations for Parkinson's care that we hope will provide greater relief for patients and their families," Nelson said.

One study presented at AAN focuses on predictors of caregiver burden in Parkinson's disease. A team of Parkinson's experts from Northwestern University, led by Drs. Odinachi Oguh and Tanya Simuni, found that not only advanced disease, but also mental health and cognitive problems are associated with caregiver strain, as well as male gender.

The next study, by leaders of NPF-QII, Drs. Peter Schmidt, Jorge Zamudio, Mark Guttman, John Nutt, Andrew Siderowf and Eugene Nelson, identified associations between observations in the clinic and patient's quality of life. For the first time, this study shows that general health plays



an important role in how patients experience Parkinson's. The team constructed a model to determine the importance of different quality of life metrics in Parkinson's patients.

"We know that better care can make a measurable difference in the quality of life for those living with Parkinson's disease," said Joyce Oberdorf, NPF's President and CEO. "Our ultimate goal is to create and widely disseminate models of excellent care and establish proven baselines for care to benefit every patient."

As this collection of real-world data continues to grow, physicians will be able to use this resource to evaluate and improve therapeutic strategies within the clinical setting.

For more information, visit www.parkinson.org/QII. This fall, NPF will be issuing a QII Patient Report.



Did you know that NPF has a free smartphone app for clinicians?

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Learn more at www.parkinson.org/toolkit.