In 2011, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) awarded grants to support three Research Centers for Excellence in Clinical Preventive Services to improve clinical preventive services in primary care. These services include screenings, encouraging healthy lifestyles, preventive medications and immunizations. The centers will serve as national resources in three areas of clinical preventive services: health equity, patient safety, and health care implementation. In addition to conducting research projects to address gaps in evidence, each center maintains core preventive services activities related to research development, education and training, dissemination, collaboration, and evaluation. A separate award to help support, coordinate, and evaluate the impact of the centers was made to Abt Associates and the MacColl Center for Health Care Innovation. The establishment of these centers was made possible by the Prevention and Public Health Fund, part of the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. Additional information about each of the three centers is included below.

Health Equity

The Center for Advancing Equity in Clinical Preventive Services | Northwestern University, Chicago

This center will develop and test interventions to reduce disparities in clinical preventive services by focusing on health literacy, health communication, quality improvement methods and health information technology. The center’s three main research projects are: understanding and addressing high rates of refusal of pneumococcal vaccination among African-Americans, improving rates of colorectal cancer screening among a predominantly low-income Latino population, and reducing disparities in cardiovascular disease prevention. [Website]

Patient Safety

Research Center for Excellence in Clinical Preventive Services | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This center will address improving patient safety by promoting the appropriate use of clinical preventive services in primary care. The center will focus on three major research projects: reducing the overuse of potentially harmful screening tests, understanding physician and patient perceptions of harms and how these affect decision-making, and improving appropriate colorectal cancer screening in elderly patients.

Health Systems Implementation

The Center for Research in Implementation Science and Prevention (CRISP) | University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus

This center will explore methods to increase the use of preventive health services in primary health care to meet national public health goals. The center’s three main research projects look at reminder and recall methods to increase immunization rates in young children, bidirectional text messaging to improve cardiovascular screening and management, and a family-focused childhood obesity prevention intervention using community health workers.
Directors, Leads, Principal Investigators, and Key Partners

The Center for Advancing Equity in Clinical Preventive Services | Northwestern University, Chicago

David Baker, MD, MPH - Center Director
Michael Wolf, PhD, MPH - Collaborative Scientific Lead

Research Project Principal Investigators: David Baker, MD, MPH; Steven Persell, MD, MPH; Kenzie Cameron, PhD, MPH

Key Partners:
Alliance of Chicago Community Health Centers; Community Health Applied Research Network; Chicago Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center; and two practice-based research networks (PBRNs): the Research and Education for Academic Achievement Network, and the Pediatric Practice Research Group.

Research Center for Excellence in Clinical Preventive Services | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Russell Harris, MD, MPH - Center Director
Noel Brewer, PhD - Collaborative Scientific Lead

Research Project Principal Investigators: Stacey Sheridan, MD MPH; Maihan Vu, DrPH MPH; Carmen Lewis, MD MPH

Key Partners:
North Carolina Area Health Education Center and Regional Extension Center, Partnership for Prevention, and Duke Primary Care Research Consortium (a PBRN).

The Center for Research in Implementation Science and Prevention (CRISP) | University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus

Allison Kempe, MD, MPH - Center Director
Jean Kutner, MD, MSPH - Collaborative Scientific Lead

Research Project Principal Investigators: Allison Kempe, MD, MPH; Jack Westfall, MD, MPH; Arthur Davidson, MD, MSPH

Key Partners: