

IMPACT NEWSLETTER

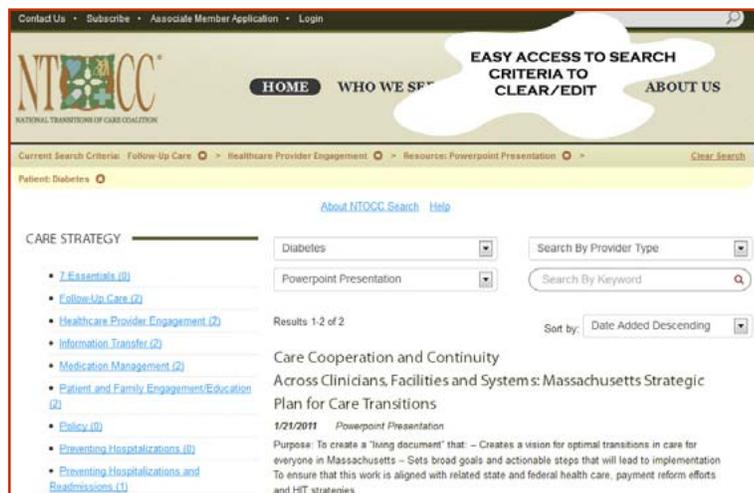
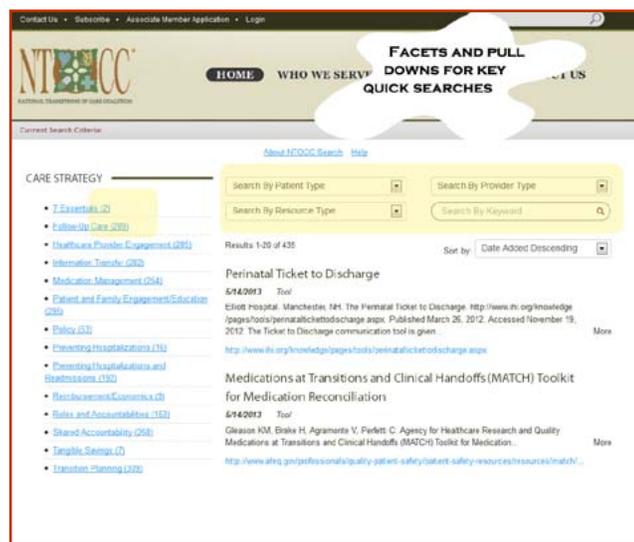
TRANSITIONS OF CARE COMPENDIUM UPGRADE LAUNCHED IN APRIL

On April 22nd, 2013, a significant upgrade to the NTOCC Compendium was launched. The Compendium has always been a powerful page for any interested party to browse and search for helpful tools, articles, and web links. Over the years, the compendium library has grown to over 400 sourced items – the previous search capabilities were inadequate to the needs of this larger set. The new TOC Compendium:

- Utilizes the power of a ‘faceted’ search model so that visitors can easily see the cross-referenced number of matched resources across the full lists of care strategies and care settings, as well as the new built-in criteria of Provider Types, Resource Types, and Patient Types.
- Has a gray bar above the compendium search which displays the Current Search Criteria, including any of the care settings or care strategies clicked, drop downs used, or keywords entered.
- Features a default sort for results by the date of entry into the Compendium from most recent to least recent or ‘Descending’. The Sort By drop down menu across from the results total will change the sort. New options for sort include Entry Date Ascending, Entry Date Descending, Title Alphabetic A-Z or Title Alphabetic Z-A.

As always, there is the option to provide feedback to the webmaster about the site as well as an option for a visitor to suggest a link to other content they deem valuable. The suggestion button is designed to forward the suggested link or content to the content management team for review and potential inclusion in future releases of the compendium.

These changes will greatly enhance the accessibility of the resources in the compendium without any loss of access to the categorized information in the previous version. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Michael Terpening at mterpening@cm-innovators.com. Read more about the new Compendium changes by visiting www.ntocc.org/News.aspx.



NTOCC to Host Four TOC Summits in 2013; Registration Open

NTOCC is poised to host its 2013 Transitions of Care Summits. This year's regional and national events will be held at the following dates and locations:

- Nashville, TN on July 18 at Baptist Hospital**
- Cleveland, OH on September 25 at Cleveland Clinic**
- Atlanta, GA on October 17 at Loudermilk Conference Center**
- Washington, DC on December 2 at the National Press Club**

These events seek to raise awareness about the challenges of poor transitions and present solutions designed to improve them. The

regional summits in Nashville, Cleveland and Atlanta will be tailored to the specific needs of the community, exploring local challenges which present barriers to improved transitions as well as technology-based and other solutions in development by area organizations. The national event in Washington, DC will address national health care issues as they relate to care transitions, such as transitions of care from a federal regulatory perspective, leading models in development and how national stakeholders, from policy makers to care facility leaders, can work together to develop TOC solutions.

Visit www.ntocc.org/Events.aspx to learn more and register.

NTOCC Policy Update: 2013 Policy and Advocacy Agenda

by Lindsay Punzenberger, NTOCC Policy Director

NTOCC is eager to work with our members to tackle a very busy policy and advocacy agenda for 2013. One of our top priorities will be to advocate for the Medicare Transitional Care Act which is set to be reintroduced this summer by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Thomas Petri (R-WI). As you may recall, Congressman Blumenauer was a featured speaker at last year's National Transitions of Care Summit and highlighted the importance of the bill, which would provide Medicare beneficiaries that are at highest risk for hospital readmissions access to evidence-based transitional services provided by an eligible transitional of care entity, such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and community-based organizations. NTOCC has worked closely with both sponsoring Members to ensure the legislation's transitional care services align with NTOCC's "Seven Essential Elements" and supports team based care.

In addition, the Policy & Advocacy work group will continue to focus on ways to educate Members of Congress on the importance of care transitions to improve health care quality and reducing costs. The need for NTOCC and our members to maintain a strong voice on Capitol Hill and with federal agencies was underscored earlier this year when the Senate proposed a 40 percent cut to the Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP) in its bipartisan legislation to fund the government through September. As you know, the CCTP program was authorized by the Affordable Care Act to foster partnerships between hospitals and community-based organizations to improve transitions of vulnerable patients. To date, 102 sites in 40 states have received funding under the program.

Unfortunately, despite NTOCC's efforts to raise awareness of the short-sightedness of the cut and support an amendment championed by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) that would have retained this important CCTP funding, the Senate passed the compromise bill that included the CCTP cut to avoid a government shutdown.

NTOCC's Policy & Advocacy work group is now leading a group of transitional care stakeholders to ensure that the cuts will not adversely impact current grantees, while working to prevent additional cuts or changes that could threaten the success of the program. In the coming weeks, representatives from NTOCC will be meeting with leaders at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as well as Members of Congress to discuss the program and the importance of protecting investments made to address gaps in communication and coordination of care, which will ultimately lead to improved health outcomes and drive down health care costs.

Reach Transitions of Care Stakeholders

Does your organization provide products and/or services related to care transitions or care quality? If so, consider the opportunity to connect with TOC stakeholders one-on-one at NTOCC's 2013 Transitions of Care Summits. We have a *limited number of exhibitor and sponsor opportunities* available; if your company is interested in connecting with Summit attendees, please contact Lindsay Harp at (501) 673-1117 or lharp@cm-innovators.com.

Connect with NTOCC Online

For the latest public policy and transitions of care news, follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/NTOCC. You can also connect with NTOCC and transitions of care stakeholders on NTOCC's group page on LinkedIn [here](#). As always, you can subscribe to NTOCC's RSS feed for updates and news; click [here](#) to access the subscription page.



Dear NTOCC Member:

Transition of care has a major role in reducing avoidable hospital readmissions. All indications point to even more focus on improving the coordination care through every exchange of a transition in the healthcare continuum. NTOCC is committed to supporting the provider, patient and family caregiver through this process. We continue to develop tools and resources that help close the gaps and barriers in transitions of care and assist the community toward improving communication.

NTOCC is committed to its vision of "Improving transitions of care for patients, family caregivers and providers through promotion of public policy, education and focused solutions that advance collaborative patient-centered care." This year, NTOCC updated the Transitions of Care Compendium; and, with the help of the four NTOCC workgroups (Education and Resource, Measures, Health Information Technology

and Policy & Advocacy) we will focus on enhancing the resources for each area where transitions have an impact on the delivery of care. NTOCC is working to ensure we have a trusted source of information for all healthcare providers and consumers, so that they may reduce the need for "reinventing the wheel" by accessing and sharing studies, tools and resources developed not only by NTOCC, but also by the community.

There is still much to do, but together we are making a significant difference in how we can work collaboratively with patients and family caregivers to improve not only patient safety, but also the quality of the healthcare experience. I hope you will share your thoughts and ideas with us at support@ntocc.org and help us focus on the solutions that help us improve transitions of care.

Best Wishes,



Cheri Lattimer, RN, BSN
NTOCC Executive Director

About the National Transitions of Care Coalition

The National Transitions of Care Coalition is a 501(c)(4) dedicated to addressing a serious U.S. health care issue: filling the gaps that occur when patients leave one care setting and move to another care setting. These transitions include patients moving from primary care to specialty physicians; moving or transferring patients from the emergency department to intensive care or surgery; or when patients

are discharged from the hospital to home, assisted living arrangements, or skilled nursing facilities. The U.S. health care system often fails to meet the needs of patients during these transitions because care is rushed and responsibility is fragmented, with little communication across care settings and multiple providers. To learn more, visit www.ntocc.org and follow the Coalition on Twitter @NTOCC.