

In this issue: Chronic Disease

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This two part issue of the Journal focuses on chronic diseases and interventions. In part 1, we delve into key chronic diseases – asthma, cardiac diseases, asthma, obesity, diabetes, and CKD – as well as the role of vaccinations in populations affected by them. The important roles of primary care and nursing care are highlighted as well. We also have a special insert on Teen Perceptions of Sexuality which, needless to say, does not directly relate to chronic disease, but does impact pathways to HIV/AIDS.

While we have significant health challenges in Delaware, we also have incredible strengths. The second of the two-issue series will discuss statewide initiatives from the public, non-profit and private sectors. Look for that issue to publish in the third week of April. We include the work of the health systems as exemplified by CareLink; community approaches to diabetes prevention; and the critical foundational role played by collaborative efforts and institutions such as the University of Delaware, Christiana Care, and the ACCEL research program. We close by circling back to the vision of our state’s public health department in prevention of chronic diseases.

Moving forward, we have created a new website, dechronicdiseasecollaboartive.org. This website was inspired by the December 2016 Delaware Chronic Disease Summit organized by Deb Brown, President and CEO of the American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic. Its focus is Delaware-based data, resources, an easy to understand lexicon of terms, and constantly updated information on legislation, activities, and other information. We are developing a Facebook presence as well which can be found at facebook.com/Delaware-Chronic-Disease-Collaborative.

As you read this edition, please keep the following key points in mind. First, we refer to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services list of chronic conditions throughout this issue and have added Addictions in deference to recent research and policy developments. The resulting list is below.

- Addiction
- Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia
- Arthritis (Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid)
- Asthma
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Cancer (Breast, Colorectal, Lung, and Prostate)
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Depression
- Diabetes

- Heart Failure
- Hepatitis (Chronic Viral B & C)
- HIV/AIDS
- Hyperlipidemia (High Cholesterol)
- Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Osteoporosis
- Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
- Stroke

The second key point is that our April 2016 issue focused on Sexually Transmitted Infections and covered HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis. A future issue of the DJPH is going to focus on Cancer as a stand-alone topic.

In closing, our greatest opportunity in the battle against chronic disease is prevention. We hope you will join us in advocating for policies and funding that support prevention at local, national and international levels.

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