



Turning the Brown Bag Blue: Q&A with HQIN's Pharmacist Cindy Warriner

The Health Quality Innovation Network's (HQIN) Blue Bag Initiative is an easy-to-use program to facilitate medication reconciliation and help your patients avoid medication errors. View the Q&A below to learn more about this turnkey program.

Question: What is the Blue Bag Initiative?

Answer: The Blue Bag Initiative is part of HQIN's efforts to reduce adverse drug events (ADEs). It offers pharmacists, physicians and other health care providers a medication reconciliation program that is easy to implement in a variety of health care and community settings. As a participant, you will receive resources including:

- Design files for printing your own bags
- Marketing materials to promote Blue Bag events to patients, families and caregivers.
- Medication review forms, education/evaluation materials and data collection worksheets
- Instructions to help you host a medication review event in your pharmacy, practice, hospital, community location or other health care facility
- Number of narcotic medications participants should NOT be taking
- Number of participants now able to state how and when they should take each medication

Q: What are the requirements for participation?

A: This no-cost program is available to pharmacists, physicians and other health care providers in Virginia, South Carolina, Kansas, and Missouri. The Blue Bag Initiative toolkit helps you tailor the program to fit the specific needs of your patients and your community. It is designed for use in any setting including community pharmacies, physician practices, hospitals and 55+ communities. HQIN is here to assist you if you encounter any challenges along the way.





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Participating providers are asked to share, at minimum, the following information:

- Number of Blue Bags given to participants
- Number of participants screened
- Number of participants screened with events identified
- Number of adverse drug events identified
- Number of expired medications or medications/OTC participants should NOT be taking
- Number of narcotic medications
- Number of participants now able to state how and when they should take each medication

This information will help us assess the impact and effectiveness of the program. We only need numbers; no protected health or personal information is requested.

Q: How does this program help patients and families?

A: Many patients, particularly seniors and those with chronic conditions, take three or more medications and see multiple clinicians. These patients are at higher risk for an adverse drug event and re-hospitalization. Regular reviews ensure that providers have access to a complete, accurate medication list and help prevent adverse drug events from occurring.

The initiative enhances patient-provider communication and empowers patients to take an active role in their health care by understanding their medications and how to take them safely. As practicing pharmacists, we know how important it is to feel like you are helping your patients. Your participants will find this program rewarding.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: It is quick and easy to sign up. Email bluebag@hqi.solutions and provide your name and contact information. You can also reach HQIN by phone at **877.731.4746**

