

Maine Quality Forum

A Service of Dirigo Health

GOALS OF THE “IN A HEARTBEAT” PROJECT

The goals of the “In a Heartbeat” Project are to improve the care, quality of life and survival of people in Maine who experience acute myocardial infarction (AMI). Each patient in Maine suspected of having an acute myocardial infarction, will receive necessary care, at the right time, given Maine’s limitations of geography, healthcare infrastructure and transportation. All providers of care will follow an agreed upon flexible system of care - to maximize the effectiveness of each patient’s treatment through minimization of time to treatment and maximization of appropriateness of treatment.

The purpose of the project is to develop metrics of process and outcome that support evidence of achievement of common goals regardless of local chain of care decisions. Indicators of process and outcome will be followed sufficient to continually maximize the quality (safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered) of the process.

Necessary Steps to Goal:

1. Convene the leadership of all participants in the care of AMI.
2. Agree on overall goal of project.
3. Understand and catalog present barriers to achieving stated goal.
4. Learn from in-state and out-of-state parallel efforts.
5. Reach consensus on care map.
6. Reach consensus on metrics of performance of care map and providers.
7. Convene leadership and actors of all participants in the care of AMI to achieve support for care map and metrics.
8. Advocate for resolution of barriers not under the control of health care providers.
9. Keep public and policy makers involved in the goals and progress of the project.