



**TRIP Conference 2003 Presentation**  
**Lisa Sams, RNC, MSN**  
**President, Clinical Linkages, Inc.**

## **A Blueprint for Clinicians to Incorporate Best Evidence into Practice**

### **Clinical Issue:**

Hospital leaders are being challenged to demonstrate effective outcomes of the care provided to their patients. Yet, few work environments are configured to support the use of evidence in outcome improvement.

Traditionally, the hospital work environment has been focused on routines (tasks) and habits and often driven by opinions rather than systematic use of evidence.<sup>1</sup> Today's emphasis on outcomes of care, however, is forcing a change in this traditional approach to clinical work. Why? Because the following factors continue to plague health care:

- Significant gaps between research findings and use of those findings in practice
- Unnecessary variations in practice
- Increasing costs of care<sup>2</sup>

These systemic issues require a practical and coordinated methodology to assist clinicians in shifting from the task-oriented focus of the past to a systems view of care. The *Clinical Work Assessment Model*© is designed to provide that solution.

### **Intervention:**

Beginning with a baseline assessment, the Clinical Work Assessment Model©, a proprietary product, presumes the work environment does present barriers to implementing evidence-based practice.<sup>3 4</sup> It is a structured approach, much like a blueprint, to (1) analysis of barriers and (2) implementation

of actions for systematic changes in practice. This is outcome-focused training, and it enables clinical teams to

- view the work environment infrastructure for its effect on their ability to incorporate evidence,
- conduct a gap analysis related to the evidence and current practice in their setting, and
- implement strategies research has shown as effective to incorporate the evidence into practice.

Results from a pilot test of the model showed the following: (1) initiation of a unit-based outcome measure to track practice improvement, (2) increased use of essential assessment criteria, and (3) identification of ongoing barriers for further intervention.

### **Conclusion:**

Research is fueling the growing national emphasis on the need for fundamental improvements in hospital-based care. However, hospitals confront a significant barrier because clinicians have not received the training that is necessary to bring about evidence-based practice.<sup>5</sup> The Clinical Work Assessment Model© is one tool, a blueprint, for clinicians to undertake a systematic approach for implementing and monitoring the use of evidence to improve patient outcomes.

---

<sup>1</sup> Gray, M. 1997

<sup>2</sup> Geyman, Deyo, & Ramsey 2000

<sup>3</sup> Sams & Gannon 2000

<sup>4</sup> Newman, Papadopoulos, & Sigsworth, 1998; Parahoo, 2000, Nolan, Morgan, Curran, et al, 1998; Thompson, Bell, & Prevost, 1999; Retsas, 2000

<sup>5</sup> Institute of Medicine, Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality (2003)