

Population Health

Hospitals are moving toward a value-based payment structure to take a more prominent role in disease prevention, health promotion and other public health initiatives. One method of achieving these goals is to provide personalized care plans for each patient admitted.¹⁷ However, there must also be a focus on population health and improving health outcomes. Hospitals have eagerly accepted this challenge and are working to improve health outcomes. A benefit of population health is that it is an interdisciplinary, customizable approach that uses non-traditional partnerships among various community groups (public health, academia, industry, health care, local government entities) to achieve positive health outcomes.¹⁸

Population health improvement occurs when hospitals collaborate and share ownership of goals with other sectors. These partnerships allow the population health efforts of hospitals and health systems to reach deeper into communities, as well as share financial and other commitments necessary to accomplish their goals.¹⁹

Health systems are embracing the notion that they are responsible for patients inside and outside their facilities and have implemented evidence-based strategies in an effort to manage population health. These strategies also help health systems achieve the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Triple Aim of 1) improving the patient experience of care; 2) improving the health of populations; and 3) reducing the per capita cost of health care.²⁰

