Advancing Obesity Care
Considerations for Health Systems

Obesity care pathway implementation and service line development

Created by Novo Nordisk, leveraging internal Novo Nordisk insights and using the American Medical Group Association (AMGA) Obesity Care Model Playbook, Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ) tools, and the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) method from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Assess readiness and resources

- Assess existing infrastructure, (eg, staffing, technology, and training capabilities) needed to support implementation
- Early in the process, engage key stakeholders who will be a part of the obesity service line, or involved in the care pathway, to evaluate the pathway for feasibility and secure their support

Develop an obesity pathway implementation plan

- Establish scope of initial rollout (eg, pilot clinics or system-wide)
- Determine timelines, roles and responsibilities, and communication channels

Integrate obesity pathway into the electronic health record (EHR)

- Modify or update the EHR system to support standardized documentation of obesity diagnosis and treatment using standardization tools such as dot phrases/ SmartPhrases
- Incorporate decision support tools and reminders, such as obesity Best Practice Alerts (BPAs), to facilitate adherence to the pathway and appropriate medication use
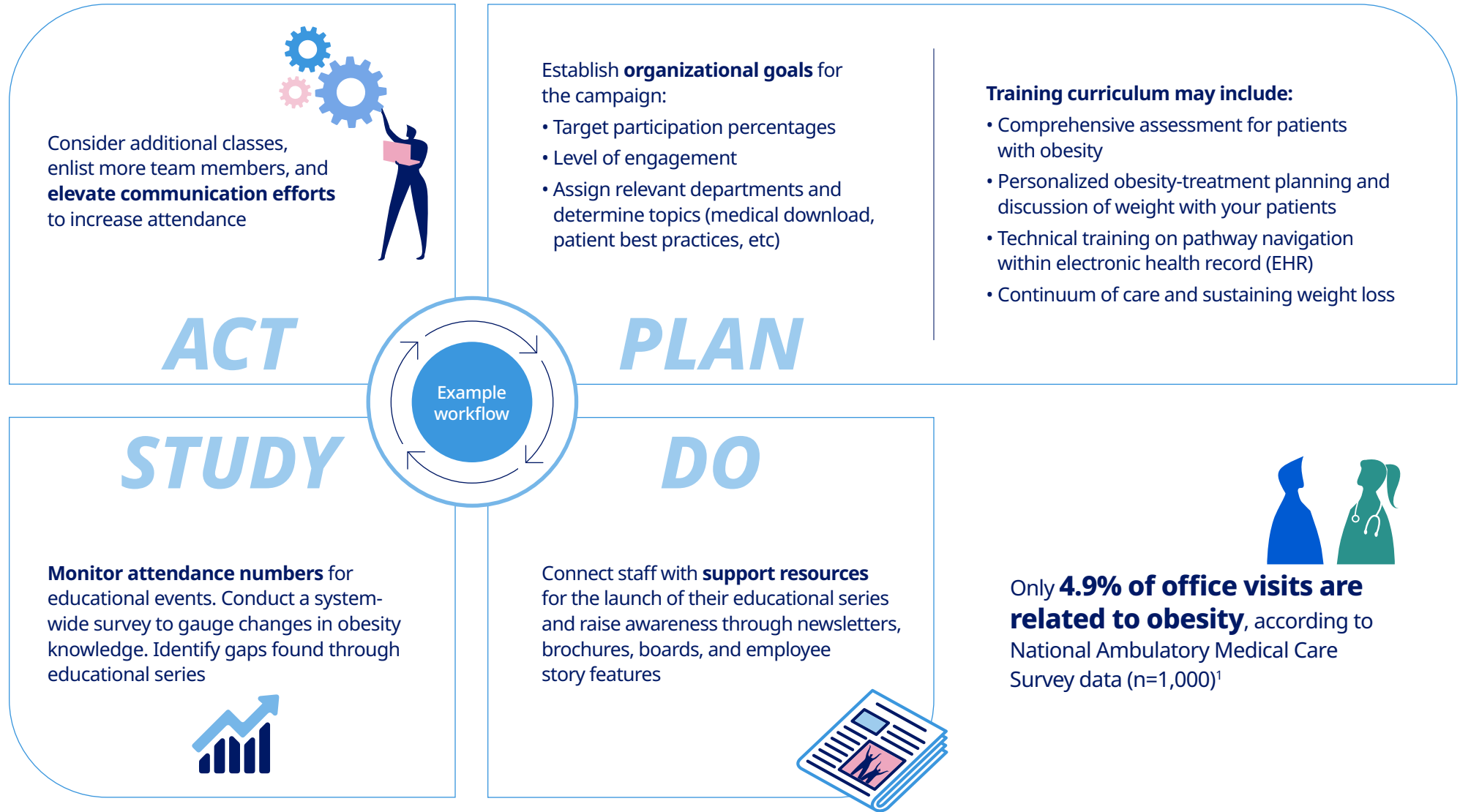
Initiate communication and education campaign to socialize the pathway

- Offer comprehensive standardized education and training programs to ensure familiarity with obesity pathway rationale and treatment protocol

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Developing a systemic obesity education campaign

ACT

Consider additional classes, enlist more team members, and **elevate communication efforts** to increase attendance

PLAN

Establish **organizational goals** for the campaign:

• Target participation percentages

• Level of engagement

• Assign relevant departments and determine topics (medical download, patient best practices, etc)

Training curriculum may include:

• Comprehensive assessment for patients with obesity

• Personalized obesity-treatment planning and discussion of weight with your patients

• Technical training on pathway navigation within electronic health record (EHR)

• Continuum of care and sustaining weight loss

Example workflow

STUDY

Monitor attendance numbers for educational events. Conduct a system-wide survey to gauge changes in obesity knowledge. Identify gaps found through educational series

DO

Connect staff with **support resources** for the launch of their educational series and raise awareness through newsletters, brochures, boards, and employee story features

Only **4.9% of office visits are related to obesity**, according to National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey data (n=1,000)[1]

Source: **1.** Talwalkar A, McCarty F. Characteristics of physician office visits for obesity by adults aged 20 and over: United States, 2012. NCHS Data Brief No. 237. Published March 2016. Accessed January 28, 2022. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db237.pdf

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