

Q&A Responses for the March 2022 SMBP Forum

Questions for Everyone/General

Question	Answer	Links
Can we receive information on the HRSA Hypertension Grant? Do 50% or more hypertension patients need to be offered SMBP or 50% need to be enrolled in an SMBP Program?	For more information, contact the HRSA NHCI Support Team at NHCI-Support@hrsa.gov for clarity on the patient number and target requirements. For NHCI awardees, visit: https://hrsa.force.com/supports/s/	
Are blood pressure readings uploaded to the patients EHR? Who follows up with the patient once part of SMBP and how often? Who titrates the medication?	Blood pressure readings can be uploaded to the patients EHR. How this upload takes place depends on the RPM vendor and their interfacing methods with each EHR software. Follow-up with the patient that is part of SMBP, and how often, can be done by the health center staff or by assigned team members from the RPM vendor. Most customers tend to use the team option from the RPM vendor due to health center staff limitations.	
Where is information on finding compatible universal BP cuffs for obese patients	The Choosing a Home BP Monitor for your Practice At-A-Glance Comparison tool has devices listed from the Validated Device Listing (as of January 2022). This listing includes devices with larger cuff size options to fit patients with larger arms. There is also a new feature comparison that includes whether the device integrates with a vendor neutral app and whether there is a cellular data transmission option. We also added a notes section. You can find it here: https://www.nachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Choosing-a-Home-BP-Monitor_At-a-Glance-Comparison.pdf	Link
Will the Remote Patient Monitoring information on reimbursement change when the public health emergency is over?	NACHC is already planning a revision of the Reimbursement Tips for RPM and SMBP resource once the Public Health Emergency is over to provide the most current information we can.	

Questions for Zufall Health Center

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Is Zufall Health receiving reimbursement or are they relying on grants for SMBP?	The program is funded through the local department of health. Since most patients are uninsured, there is no reimbursement with insurance.	

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Questions for Tennessee Primary Care Association

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For patients not as familiar with using a smartphone or tablet device, are there designated staff at the health centers who are able to educate/provide technical assistance?	Yes. We recommend that health centers have staff members assigned to assist patients who have limited experience with smart devices. One of our health centers has a four-person outreach team dedicated to providing this technical assistance.	
Is SannoConnect specific to Tennessee	No. Sano Connect is available nationwide.	www.sanoconnect.com
How can a vendor be part of your chart comparison?	Vendors must meet a certain criterion we have developed. This includes at least five years of experience in the RPM field, active collaboration with FQHCs and/or PCAs/HCCNs, and high ratings in their platform's EHR integration capabilities, device connectivity, product quality, and affordability.	
What does your staffing ratio look like to keep up with a panel of ~300 patients?	Our recommended staffing ratio for a panel of that size would be at least a 4-person care team. One provider, one MA, and two staff members (minimum) dedicated to patient outreach for RPM education, technical assistance, and follow-up.	
Is funding still available for the FQHC community?	Yes. Funding is still available for the FQHC Community. For smart devices, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) that was expanded from the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) had funding increase from \$3 billion to \$14.2 billion in December 2021 going forward. There is no end date for this funding and it is available now.	https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program

Questions for Preeclampsia Foundation

Question	Answer	Links
Can you share any requirements providers must adhere to under the Cuff Kit program such as data sharing?	The Cuff kit is moving into the next phase and looking for volunteers to test the new requirements in a randomized control study. Currently, the data collection process is not rigorous to help providers focus on care for patients. The data focused on provider and patient feedback on the level of engagement and effectiveness of participation.	