WVPBRN sites, partnered with the University of Kentucky, to address the need for professional education in chronic pain by using a multi-disciplinary educational program across the two Appalachian states. The goal was to improve office care of patients through

- inter-professional roundtable events,
- practice facilitation,
- conferences,
- internet resources.

The study was funded through the Pfizer Foundation and included three practices (Roane County Family Health Care, New River Health Association, and West Virginia University Department of Family Medicine). These sites implemented practice improvement activities with help from trained practice facilitator.

Addressing chronic pain and opioid use in clinical practice with support for continuing education for providers showing a worthwhile impact in rural Appalachian office practices.

**Findings**

- 949 total participants in the study, and 915 CME credit hours accomplished.
- All 3 PBRN sites demonstrated practice improvement strategies and were positive about the experience.
- Clinical actions included increased urine drug screens, improved office policies, and increased use of consent for opioid use.
- Provider knowledge increased from pre- to post study, and use of opioid prescriptions decreased across the sites.
- Sites were kept updated regularly throughout the study by site visits, phone, and newsletters.