

Workers and Health

Partnering with **Migrant Clinicians Network** to make a difference in the protection of farmworkers and their families

Farmworkers are employed in one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States. There are numerous barriers to recognizing and treating work-related health issues in the primary care setting. Some of the underlying barriers are the limited training frontline providers receive in environmental and occupational health (EOH), and structural challenges that prevent clinicians from adequately addressing EOH problems. For farmworkers and other vulnerable populations working in hazardous industries, an occupational injury or exposure is often the reason for the initial contact with the health care system, underscoring the need to begin addressing such concerns at the primary care level.



Migrant Clinicians Network supports community health centers (CHC) in strengthening environmental and occupational health care for farmworkers and their families and other workers facing high exposure risks. MCN partners with interested CHCs in a year-long collaboration to develop simple, practical and flexible adaptations to integrate EOH into the primary care setting. **These system changes are designed to assist the CHC and its clinicians to reach the following goals:**

- improve clinicians' skills in the recognition and treatment of environmental and occupational health conditions;
- develop clinical systems to support risk assessment, management and documentation of EOH injuries and illnesses;
- support the CHC in their quality improvement efforts and integration of EOH into their Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems.
- support the CHC capacity to prevent, identify, analyze and address patient safety and adverse events; and
- improve the health of the community and patients through quality healthcare services that respond to their unique needs and are culturally responsive and language appropriate.

This program uses a performance improvement model, where both administrative and clinical staff participate to ensure success. MCN works directly with a “clinician champion,” typically the medical director, who is willing to spearhead the clinic-based program, along with a team of key staff members. MCN provides participating health centers with funding to carry out the agreed-upon work, while offering technical assistance, coordination, and oversight. Upon completion of the program, MCN designates the CHC partner as an MCN Environmental and Occupational Health Center of Excellence. This project is overseen by two national advisory committees with expertise in migrant health, primary care and occupational and environmental medicine.

Ready to Partner with Us?

Partner with MCN to build stronger EOH capacity—without reinventing workflows. MCN brings a tailored plan, targeted training, and implementation support to help teams deliver more consistent, work-centered care for workers and families.

For more information about a partnership with your health center, please contact **Marysel Pagán Santana**, DrPH, MS at mpagan@migrantclinician.org or **Esther Pizza** at epizza@migrantclinician.org

