Centerstone’s Research Institute, established in 2008, supports the Centerstone mission of delivering care that changes people’s lives by advancing the science of behavioral health care and increasing the speed of access for individuals. This is achieved by empowering clinicians to provide the best care reinforced by the latest advancements and evidence-based practices.

The Research Institute comprises three divisions — the Center for Clinical Excellence, Research and Evaluation and Clinical Informatics – and is led by CEO Richard Shelton, MD, who also serves as Chief Medical Officer for Centerstone. Under Dr. Shelton’s guidance, the Research Institute works with clinical teams to improve the quality and effectiveness of care for individuals and families facing behavioral health disorders.

Science-to-Service Gap

One of the main purposes of the Research Institute team is reducing the science-to-service gap, which represents the amount of time it takes for a treatment that has been developed by science and research to be fully integrated in the clinical field and serve clients.

The current science-to-service gap is 17 years. An individual diagnosed with depression may have to suffer this long before receiving the benefit of interventions or advances known today. The Research Institute closes this gap by developing more efficient evidence-based, value-added care models, enabling clinicians within Centerstone and beyond to provide better care sooner, which results in healthier, happier clients.

What’s Next for Centerstone’s Research Institute

- Establish a Center of Excellence for Depression, featuring a comprehensive treatment model for health care institutions in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee by 2020.
- Design, disseminate and evolve seven clinical models and/or pathways by 2021.
- Design and implement clinical pathways for depression, anxiety and first episode psychosis by 2020.
- Advance the adoption of measurement based care throughout the Centerstone footprint to achieve accurate diagnoses and interval based measurements used to inform treatment.
- Design and implement actionable knowledge tools that support clinical adoption of evidence-based practices.
- Institute the National Mental Health Research Fund to advance clinical practice and close the gap of the science-to-service cycle.