Jane S. Knipper, RN, MA, AE-C, FAACVPR, Pulmonary Rehabilitation Clinical Supervisor at the Department of Rehabilitation Therapies, UIHC Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics is currently using the AACVPR Pulmonary Rehabilitation Registry for an improvement project to decrease patient wait time for program enrollment. This involves several changes in program design.

Changing from the traditional approach of scheduling patients as groups, they now schedule patients individually. In doing this, all education and training is provided in a 1:1 manner rather than in groups. This allows their program to truly individualize the intervention for each patient and schedule patients in more of an open gym approach. Patients are scheduled at a time of their choice in 15 minute time slots. Every 15 minutes a patient arrives, is checked in with resting vital signs and a respiratory assessment, then begins exercise. This has allowed them to expand their census at any one time since patients are arriving throughout the morning. Afternoons are reserved for documentation and new evaluations.

During this transition, Jane and her team have learned to take advantage of every opportunity for 1:1 time with a patient, because it may be too busy later to have that time. The patients have also had a positive experience with the transition because they prefer the ability to schedule at a time convenient for them, and to not have to wait for others to arrive to get going with their treatment plan.