

The Difference between the Institute’s Seminars and Conferences

Ever wondered what exactly is the difference between the Institute’s Seminars and Conferences? Many people do. While they are both educational meetings and both offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for eligible participants, the following describes how Seminars and Conferences are unique.



Seminars are intense training experiences that the Institute generally offers at least twice a year in various locations. Institute faculty—representing organizations from across the country—teach the *Hospitals and Communities Moving Forward with Patient- and Family-Centered Care* seminars. Seminar participants, usually between 250-300 individuals per Seminar, include health care professionals—such as administrators, nurses, and clinicians—and patient and family leaders. Typically, these individuals attend as members of multidisciplinary teams—about 80 teams per Seminar—from hospitals, ambulatory care settings, and other health care organizations.

The Seminar incorporates a variety of teaching methods including plenary sessions for the entire group, smaller topical breakout sessions where attendees choose from a variety of topics, and video discussion groups. In addition, each health care team is assigned to a small group led by a faculty member who serves as an advisor to the team. These small groups work with their faculty advisors each day, which provides for individualization of each team’s learning goals. Each team prepares a unique “Action Plan” to serve as a blueprint for patient- and family-centered initiatives to use once the members of the team return to their respective organizations.

The intensive training experience includes a pre-seminar self-assessment and post-seminar support from Institute staff. Participants sometimes refer to these intensive training Seminars as patient- and family-centered ‘boot camp’—participants work hard, learn a lot, laugh a lot, and network across disciplines. The days are long, and most meals (included in the registration fee) are working sessions. A fun-filled dinner celebration on the last evening of the Seminar is always a memorable experience.

Seminar Participants receive copies of all PowerPoint® presentations from the Seminar, in addition to more than 350 other Guidance Resources.

[More Information on Seminars](#)



The Institute hosts *The International Conference on Patient- and Family-Centered Care* in various locations, typically every other year. Differing from intensive training Seminars, the Institute issues a “Call for Papers” and presenters are chosen from these abstract submissions. Since there are only a limited number of sessions that can be presented during the three-day Conference, competition is fierce! In addition to the

plenary sessions with nationally recognized leaders in patient- and family-centered care, presentations include breakout sessions on a variety of topics with more than 25 concurrent sessions offered throughout each day, video theatre, and interactive poster sessions.

The Conference—which in 2007 attracted 1000 participants from all over the United States and nine other countries—showcases innovative and emerging best practices dedicated to partnerships with patients and families to improve outcomes and enhance the quality and safety of health care. Individual participants, as well as teams, can enjoy all the Conference has to offer.

At *The 4th International Conference*, held in Philadelphia in 2009, participants had the opportunity to choose from a multitude of concurrent sessions. Key leaders in patient- and family-centered care reviewed more than 400 abstract submissions in response to the Institute's call for papers and poster presentations, and selected approximately 100 presentations. Presenters represented hospitals, health care systems, community-based programs, patient- and family-led organizations, physician practices, schools of medicine, nursing, and allied health, and other health professions. Topics ranged from adult inpatient care, ambulatory/primary care, maternity and newborn intensive care, child and adolescent care, environment and design, to professional education, mental health, and chronic illness.

Conference attendees have the opportunity to connect with internationally recognized leaders who have pioneered patient- and family-centered care. In addition, participants can visit the exhibit hall to learn about patient- and family-centered services and products, interact with those giving poster presentations, and choose from the numerous video theatre selections. The International Conference often offers a preconference tour of sponsor hospitals, networking breakfasts, special luncheons and dinners, and receptions as a way to offer additional networking opportunities and build relationships with others implementing patient- and family-centered initiatives.

Attendees of past International Conferences report that the opportunity to hear from national and international leaders, network, and sample the best of patient- and family-centered care practices, is an educational, invigorating, and inspirational experience.

[More information on Conferences](#)



Continuing education credits for physicians, nurses, and social workers, are available to eligible participants for Seminars and Conferences.