

Implementation of Educational Program to Increase Awareness and Screening for STD Among

Young Adults Ages 15-29 with Urinary Symptoms

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Abstract

Background: Urinary symptoms such as dysuria, urinary urgency, frequency, suprapubic pain, are frequent complaints made in the Emergency Department (ED). Although, it is easy to relate urinary symptoms with a urinary tract infection (UTI), both UTI and sexually transmitted disease (STD) can have urinary symptoms that mask each other from detection. Their mimicking symptoms present challenges for ED providers such as physicians, physician's assistants, and nurse practitioners to misdiagnose and mistreat, resulting in patient morbidity and high health care costs.

Local problem: Young adults who present to the ED with urinary complaints are not being investigated for an STD. ED providers assume patient's urinary symptoms as a UTI and treat them with antibiotics that are not effective for an STD. Patients were often over-diagnosed with UTI and under-diagnosed with STD. The high prevalence of health risk behaviors and increasing rate of chlamydial and gonorrheal infections among 15-29 year olds in Stanislaus County, California highlight the important need for education on STD screening among young adults with urinary symptoms.

Methods/Interventions: Education was given to 45 ED providers over 3 months time period. Pre and Post-implementation STD knowledge test was obtained via surveymonkey.com to evaluate ED providers' knowledge on STD screening. Education was provided via power point presentation during monthly ED meeting, company e-mail, one-to-one meeting with each ED provider, and STD screening posters on hospital wall and ED providers' computers. STD screening was ordered through urine, cervical, penile, or vaginal sample.

Results/Conclusions: When education given to ED provider, the number of STD screening rate has increased by 10.3% and detected more chlamydia and gonorrhea. This highlights the

importance of ongoing education and use of clinical guideline for ED providers to ensure timely screening.