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Piloting an EMR-based Technology to Facilitate Transition Counseling at an Adolescent Primary

Care Clinic

DNP Final Scholarly Project Abstract

Project Evaluation

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this quality improvement project was to determine if a combination of an educational in-service and electronic medical record (EMR)-based best practice alert (BPA) interventions would facilitate transition counseling and increase adherence to transition practice recommendations at a primary care adolescent clinic.

Methods: A pre- and post-test project design was implemented. The project team developed an EMR-based BPA to serve as an automatic reminder and documentation tool; an educational in-service to educate and train providers regarding transition topics and the BPA; and two infographics to illustrate the educational in-service information in a succinct format. The primary outcome was to increase transition counseling at the clinic as measured by auditing patients' EMRs. Provider satisfaction with the project interventions was a secondary outcome assessed through a post-intervention Qualtrics survey. Descriptive statistics were used to report on the project's outcomes.

Results: There was a 29% increase in documented transition counseling in the post-intervention group from baseline. The majority of providers were satisfied with the ease, accessibility, and efficacy of the project interventions, with 63% (n=10) of providers reporting intended continued use of the EMR-based BPA following project completion.

Implications: An EMR-based BPA can be a clinically significant and sustainable tool to address commonly cited transition barriers, such as provider time constraints and low awareness, as long as providers are formally educated and trained on its use.

Keywords: Healthcare transition, transition, adolescents, young adults, adolescents and young adults (AYAs), electronic medical record (EMR), transition planning tools (TPTs), best practice alert (BPA), educational in-service, infographics, provider satisfaction