

Abstract

Objective: This quality improvement project sought to evaluate the impact of implementing a standardized hypertension screening workflow for patients with elevated Blood Pressure (BP) in a retail clinic setting. The aims of this initiative were to determine whether (1) a standardized blood pressure (BP) screening workflow will increase the number of patients with a BP re-check if the first BP is $>140/90$, (2) determine whether a standardized BP screening workflow will increase the number of patients with treatment and follow up plan of care, and (3) to determine impact on clinic throughput by comparing length of visit for patients with BP rechecks and BP management with usual visit times.

Methods: This project utilized a pretest-posttest design. This intervention was multipronged and consisted of staff education and implementation of an adapted evidence based hypertension control provider toolkit. This toolkit helped standardize the workflow for blood pressure rechecks and plan of care documentation.

Results: This project was implemented at a retail clinic with 4 advanced practice providers. 18 charts were reviewed pre and post intervention. Results did not show a clinically significant improvement in BP screening and plan of care documentation. There was a decrease in blood pressure checks when compared to pre intervention chart review. Retail Clinic providers cited lack of focus on elevated BP at the height of the global pandemic. Time and resources needed to support this initiative was not a priority for the organization during this time.

Conclusion: This quality improvement project did not show an improvement in blood pressure screening in a retail clinic setting. Further quality improvement projects with a focus on blood pressure screening in retail clinics are needed to determine the feasibility and sustainability of BP screenings and elevated BP management in a retail clinic setting.