BACKGROUND, PURPOSE & AIMS

- Alcohol misuse contributes to significant physical, medical and mental disability among veterans.
- USPSTF recommendation

Project Purpose: To identify factors contributing to consistent low rates of follow-up alcohol counseling.

Project Aims:
- Increase clinician knowledge
- Improve clinician practice
- Increase follow-up alcohol counseling rates.
- Identify barriers to practice

METHODS

Design: One-group pretest-posttest
Setting: VA outpatient healthcare system in the Pacific Northwest.
Sample: Convenience sample of eligible clinicians

Intervention: On-demand virtual educational presentation.
Analysis: Descriptive statistics; Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test.

RESULTS AIM 1: Clinician Knowledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test</th>
<th>Pre-Intervention</th>
<th>Post-Intervention</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA guidelines</td>
<td>M 6.10, Md. 6.00</td>
<td>M 8.40, Md. 8.00</td>
<td>n = 10</td>
<td>p = .011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Clinical reminder</td>
<td>M 5.67, Md. 5.00</td>
<td>M 9.22, Md. 9.00</td>
<td>n = 9</td>
<td>p = .021</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RESULTS AIM 2: Clinician Practice

![Likely to change practice](chart.png)

RESULTS AIM 3: Alcohol Counseling Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>October 2022</th>
<th>November 2022</th>
<th>December 2022</th>
<th>January 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>85.74%</td>
<td>38.23%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>74.80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULTS AIM 4: Barriers to Alcohol Counseling

Clinician Reported Barriers
- Time n = 14
- Knowledge deficit n = 6
- Veterans’ unwillingness n = 5
- Staffing issues, n = 3

CONCLUSION

- Given the deleterious effects of alcohol misuse, every effort should be made to engage veterans in alcohol counseling when indicated.
- Project facilitated a better understanding of factors contributing to continued low rates of follow-up alcohol counseling.
- Recurrent training is needed and easily supported within the clinic.

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