

Increasing Uptake of Cervical Cancer Screening: An Improvement Project

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BACKGROUND

- Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among biologically female people worldwide.
- The five-year survival rate is 91% when cervical cancer is found early.
- If not found until the cancer reaches distal organs and tissues, the survival rate is only 19%.
- Screening using Papanicolaou (pap) and human papillomavirus (HPV) testing is necessary for positive patient outcomes.
- Regular screening reduces the incidence of cervical cancer and death by 80%.

LOCAL PROBLEM

- The quality improvement project was implemented within a mobile clinic serving uninsured patients in East Tennessee.
- Prior to implementation, cervical cancer screening rates at the site were 45%.
- The administration of the mobile clinic has identified cervical cancer screening as an area for quality improvement for their patient population.
- This project aimed to increase the uptake of cervical cancer screening to 60% using a patient navigation program.

METHODS

- The IHI Model for Improvement was used as the framework for this project.
- Literature search and critical appraisal using the Johns Hopkins Research evidence appraisal tool demonstrated reliable evidence to support the use of a patient navigation program.
- Using Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycles, a questionnaire was developed to assess the need for screening.
- Outcome measures were measured for three months post-implementation.

Patient navigation programs
are an evidence-based way
to increase uptake of cervical
cancer screenings.



Screening Rates increased by
11.3%



INTERVENTIONS

- During the registration process, the questionnaire (translated into English, Spanish, and Vietnamese) was used to screen every woman aged 21-65 who presented for appointments.
- Patients also received an educational infographic.
- Any patient identified for screening was offered testing at the appointment or the opportunity to schedule a later appointment for screening.




RESULTS

- 110 women were assessed for cervical cancer screening needs.
- 35% of patients were in the 41-50 year age range, and 33% were in the 51-60 year age range.
- The most common barriers to previous screenings were the lack of insurance and the cost of screening.
- Post-intervention screening rate was 56.25%, which was an increase of 11.25% over the pre-intervention rate.

CONCLUSIONS

- Patient navigation programs are an evidence-based way to increase the uptake of cervical cancer screenings.
- The project site plans to edit its intake form to include all cancer screenings.