

Tobacco Dependence and Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines

CARES - Community AIDS Resource and Education Services of Southwest Michigan

Summary

Three provider offices and three health systems, one each in Berrien, Calhoun, and Kalamazoo counties, were assessed regarding their knowledge of and adherence to current Tobacco Dependence and Lung Cancer Screening guidelines. Practice managers, nurse navigators, clinicians, and administrative staff were surveyed and common practices were compared to establish standards and protocols. An evidence based Provider Office Resource Guide was developed and distributed. The ultimate goal was to improve patient outcomes by identifying, screening, and treating individuals at risk for lung cancer.

Challenges

- Absence of written policies and protocols directing tobacco and lung cancer screening
- Lack of consistent staff knowledge of current screening recommendations and guidelines
- Gaps between clinical services and IT services impeding successful data collection

Solution

The creation of an evidence based Provider Office Resource Guide addressed the main challenges by providing specific tools to increase knowledge and guide policy to improve screening processes. The Guide includes brief interventions, local and national resource lists, clinical research articles, medication resources, and pharmacotherapy treatments.



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"The office guide is easy to use, provides excellent resources, and is easy to duplicate and share with colleagues - it is a great resource!" ~ Pamela S. Grosvenor, BSN, RN, Practice Manager, Bronson Lakeview Family Care; Decatur, Mattawan & Pediatrics

Organization Involvement

- Connecting with providers working in cancer treatment as well as family medicine provides a safety net.
- Providing evidence based resources for clinical staff increases effective screening and treatment for patients.
- Supporting staff in reaching eligible patients for cancer screening saves lives.

Results

Each organization that participated in the project received specific guidance to improve patient outcomes in a variety of ways. Some needed to increase staff knowledge regarding screening and treatment. Others benefited from increasing utilization of their electronic health record for patient and clinician reminders. One organization realized a need to create a specialty Lung Nodule Clinic in addition to their Cancer Care Center. This project was able to address diverse and complex barriers across facilities and support each in changing to improve patient outcomes.

Sustaining the Success

- Training resources on Motivational Interviewing and Tobacco Treatment interventions were provided and are ongoing.
- The guide includes a variety of quit tobacco supports including in person, web-based, and QuitLines, most free of cost.
- The pharmacotherapy tobacco treatment guidelines provide accurate dosing schedules resulting in greater quit rates.