



2021 LEAD Capstone Poster Session

Implementation of an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Program

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Abstract

- Society of Vascular Surgery and U.S. Preventive Services Task Force have recommendations for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening in high risk populations.
- This is underutilized in the Parkland Health system.
- My proposal is to implement a user friendly screening tool within EPIC to help identify qualified patients and get them screened.



Objectives

- Start an effective AAA screening program
- Offer either treatment or enrollment in surveillance after identification of an AAA (depending on size of the aneurysm)
- Decrease aortic related mortality
- Create a database of all AAA patients identified from our screening



Background Information

- Aortic aneurysms cause about 10,000 deaths, making it the 15th leading cause of death in the US
- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends one time screening for men aged 65 – 75 who have ever smoked.¹
- Other groups advocate broader guidelines to include women, family history, etc.^{2,3}
- Screening can easily be accomplished with ultrasound
- Using EMR has been shown to be an effective approach to AAA screening.⁴



Specific Aims

- Identify those patients that are at high risk for AAA
- Make sure these patients receive a screening ultrasound
 - Patients with positive findings will be automatically get a vascular surgery referral.
- Goal is to identify patients with AAA before they rupture, and offer elective repair if indicated



Project Plan

- Ensure adequate resources are available
- Meet with outpatient primary care clinic leadership to understand any obstacles and get their support
- Educate providers not familiar with current guidelines
- Meet with medical informatics team to incorporate a best practice / health maintenance alert for qualified patients
- Track all positive studies



Application of What You Learned at LEAD

- Provided the framework and mindset to develop a project like this.
- Understanding different DISC profiles what that means when discussing the project with others.
- Negotiation strategies to help get the support of key stakeholders



Proposed Budget

- Year 1 – no additional funds needed. Pulling resources from systems and personnel already in place
- Year 2 – advanced practice provider (0.25 FTE)



Innovation and Significance

- Saves lives
- Helps bring us up to compliance with national recommendations
- Saves health care dollars



References

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