Evidence-Based Clinical Guidelines to Impact Patient Outcomes and Student Education

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Objectives

- Understand the rationale for the development of clinical practice guidelines with the intention of improving and maintaining quality patient care.
- Describe the process within the clinic which would aid in identifying the need for clinical practice guidelines, developing and maintaining the clinical practice guidelines, and defining the specific role of various clinical staff.
- Describe the review and revision process.

Introduction

- Partnership for Health Center (PHC) is a free clinic serving the working uninsured population of Lowndes County, Georgia.
- Staffed mainly with volunteer clinicians including nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, medical doctors, and social workers from various backgrounds and areas of expertise.
- Collaboration with Valdosta State University’s College of Nursing, faculty practice plan, under HRSA NEPR grant #D11HP14: Health Link: Health Care for Uninsured Employed Adults provide health care services to the patient population of PHC.
- NP Faculty precept Adult-Gero Nurse Practitioner students.
- AGNP students complete evidence-based projects at PHC.

Mainly volunteer staff.

Potential for inconsistencies in patient care.

Frequency of clinical rotations.

Patients may experience confusion regarding their treatment plan.

Use of guidelines can eliminate inconsistencies in disease management and improve patient satisfaction with care.

Evidence-based clinical guideline development provides opportunity for NP project topic.

Potential for future DNP students to complete evidence-based projects.

Potential for scholarship and service related to development and/or annual review of evidence-based clinical guidelines.

Opportunity for inter-disciplinary collaboration in development of guidelines.

Problem

Evidence

Practice

Implications for Practice

Solution

- Policy regarding the development and use of evidence-based guidelines consistent with best practices has been adopted at PHC.
- Development of manual containing current evidence-based clinical guidelines placed in each exam room.
- The evidence-based clinical practice guidelines will undergo annual review.
- Creation of Interdisciplinary Medical Advisory Committee (MAC).
- MAC worked to identify or develop certain evidence-based practice guidelines based on their interests and expertise.
- Develop draft guideline, send to MAC for review, feedback and comments.

Evidence-based clinical practice guideline development is an ongoing, collaborative process, and guidelines are reviewed annually to assure that they are standardized and consistent with current evidence-based practice, based on the latest technology, and cost-effective measures and meet the approval of the PHC clinicians as well as supervising physician.

References


