

A Positive Practice Change with EMRs

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INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

Documentation of well child examinations was incomplete with the current paper charting system utilized in a pediatric practice.

The pediatric practice had below average percentile scores for documentation on well child examinations on the HEDIS physician practice report card for 2009.

HEDIS is an evaluation of performance standards for Medicaid. Since the practice has 53.1% of patients with Medicaid insurance, Medicaid reimbursement is necessary for the practice.

METHODS

Setting

The project was conducted at a private pediatric practice with one full time pediatrician and one part time family nurse practitioner. The practice was utilizing a paper charting system and was scheduled to implement EMRs

Population

All patients ages birth to 18 years with a diagnosis code of well child examination, even if acute visit also coded, that were performed by both healthcare providers were included in the study. There were no exclusions.

OBJECTIVES

Clinical Guidelines

Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS) is a standardized set of performance measures that were developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. The centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services require submission of HEDIS guidelines for reimbursement.

The HEDIS Physician Practice Report Card for 2009 Stated that the items that were not being documented were BMI, activity, and nutrition. Only a small percentage of patient charts had documentation on current well child examinations, immunization status, and lead screenings. The practice also had below average scores for all areas of Georgia Medicaid.

Purpose of Project

The purpose of the project was to determine if EMRs provide more detailed and accurate documentation of well child examinations.

The DNP project proposed a change in patient documentation by implementing EMRs into a pediatric practice and compared documentation of well child examinations for a 3 month time period before and after the EMRs implementation.

GOALS

Goals of the Project

1. To provide improved documentation of well child care by implementing EMRs into a pediatric practice
2. To increase the HEDIS physician practice report scores to average or above average in all areas

The objective for both goals was to ensure that all patient charts had the required HEDIS performance measures documented for well child examinations

Methodology

This was a comparison study that had retrospective chart reviews for 3 months prior to implementing EMRs and 3 months after implementing EMRs.

Data Collection

A rubric was developed to perform chart reviews and evaluate the documentation of data of the well child examination for both pre and post EMR implementation chart reviews. Pre implementation and post implementation scores were compared using descriptive statistics and bivariate analysis

Statistical Analysis

Nominal levels variables were assigned a score ranging of 0 (no patient data completed), 5 (patient data partially completed), or 10 (patient data fully completed).

All of the scores for the variables were added to obtain a total score for the chart. The total scores were compared pre and post EMR implementation.

RESULTS

Inferential Statistics

Bivariate analysis was performed utilizing an independent samples t-test that revealed there was a difference in pre and post post-implementation chart completion

$t=-8.457, p < .0001$

The increase in the total score means supports improved patient documentation after the EMR implementation.

A significant increase in documentation of well child examinations occurred in the post implementation data compared to the pre-implementation data.

Findings

The findings were an increase in documentation of well child examinations after EMRs were implemented.

Implications for Practice

The study focused on the documentation of well child exams in private pediatric practice, but it could be expanded to a family practice setting or a public health care setting for children.

The study could also be extended to include the documentation of preventative care measure to other populations utilizing the HEDIS guidelines

CONCLUSIONS

HEDIS Award Received

The practice received the HIEIS AWARD for compliance with the guidelines. This is a monetary award from Wellcare that was given to the practice after the practice implemented EMRs and had seen an improvement in the documentation of well child exams.

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