

**Title of Intervention:** Cancer Prevention Reminder System

**Intervention Strategies:** Provider Education, Individual Education

**Purpose of the Intervention:** To increase preventive testing and improve behavior for cancer prevention

**Population:** Primary health care providers and their patients

**Setting:** Health care practices in northern California; worksite-based, health care facility-based

**Partners:** None mentioned

**Intervention Description:**

- **Provider Education:** Primary health care facilities installed the Cancer Prevention Reminder System to the facility records computers. A users' manual gave step-by-step directions for the use of each feature available in the system. The Cancer Prevention Reminder System generated two up-to-date reports of each patients' screening, assessment and counseling status as a reminder. The first report was for the physician's use and the second, simplified report was for the patient's information. Both of the printed reminders listed appropriate screening, assessment and counseling maneuvers based on the patient's sex, age and smoking status.
- **Individual Education:** Health care facilities in the intervention group were also given a display rack of cancer education materials to assist them in counseling their patients. They were provided pamphlets about screening for cancer, smoking cessation and dietary changes, as well as information about helping patients achieve behavior change, newsletters with up-to-date information about cancer prevention and a directory of local smoking cessation programs.

**Theory:** Not mentioned

**Resources Required:**

- **Staff/Volunteers:** Health care providers and staff
- **Training:** Not mentioned
- **Technology:** Computer, Cancer Prevention Reminder System software, printer
- **Space:** Not mentioned
- **Budget:** Not mentioned
- **Intervention:** Cancer Prevention Reminder System, educational pamphlets
- **Evaluation:** Medical records

**Evaluation:**

- **Design:** Randomized controlled trial
- **Methods and Measures:**
  - Medical records were audited to collect information on procedures performed and patient demographics.

**Outcomes:**

- **Short Term Impact:** Not measured
- **Long Term Impact:** Performance scores in the intervention group were significantly higher for smoking assessment and smoking counseling.

**Maintenance:** Not mentioned

**Lessons Learned:** Computer reminder systems offer several distinct advantages over other reminder strategies. They are readily transferable and exportable to a variety of practice settings. A reminder system can be added to these existing computer systems at minimal cost.

**Citation(s):**

McPhee, S. J., J. A. Bird, et al. (1991). "Promoting cancer prevention activities by primary care physicians. Results of a randomized, controlled trial." *Jama* 266(4): 538-44.

Fordham, D., S. J. McPhee, et al. (1990). "The Cancer Prevention Reminder System." *MD Comput* 7(5): 289-95.