

Title of Intervention: Diabetes Patient Tracker

Website: <http://www.okprn.org/dpt.html>

Intervention Strategies: Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To improve diabetic quality of care measures

Population: Primary care physicians serving patients with diabetes

Setting: A primary care, practice-based research network in Oklahoma; health care facility-based

Partners: Software development company, physicians

Intervention Description:

- Environments and Policies: The Diabetes Patient Tracker application was designed to be used with handheld computers. Clinic sites could use a browser-based web interface connected to the main server to review and edit their patients' data. A security system was developed to protect the information so that a clinic could only look at their data but not information from another location. The intervention protocol called for immediate point of service data entry by the nurse when the patient came in for his or her regular diabetes checkup. Generally, the nurse would print an updated patient report or medical history to identify interventions required during that visit.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Physician group, nurses
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Diabetes Patient Tracker application
- Space: Not mentioned
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Handheld computers for data collection
- Evaluation: Patient charts

Evaluation:

- Design: Quasi-experimental, no control group
- Methods and Measures: Patient charts were audited to determine the rate at which preventive and intervention services were being provided for patients with diabetes.

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: Implementation of the Diabetes Patient Tracker resulted in a significant improvement in nine of ten diabetic quality of care measures. It also increased the number of foot exams and retinal exams performed.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Diabetes Patient Tracker is a low cost, yet effective, and feasible paperless tool that significantly improves the patient care and documentation in primary care practices.

Citation(s):

Nagykaldi, Z. and J. W. Mold (2003). "Diabetes Patient Tracker, a personal digital assistant-based diabetes management system for primary care practices in Oklahoma." *Diabetes Technol Ther* 5(6): 997-1001.