Implementing Interprofessional Alcohol Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in the Emergency Department: An Evidence-Based Quality Improvement Initiative

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Purpose

- To deliver and evaluate an alcohol SBIRT educational program, and implement an alcohol SBIRT protocol for ED nurses and social workers
- Provide a window of therapeutic opportunity or “teachable moment” for individuals with alcohol-related and injury-related health conditions
- Develop an educational module for ED nurses and social workers
- Evaluate outcomes via pretest/posttest and program evaluation
- Evaluate ED nurses and social worker’s alcohol SBIRT documentation

Project Plan

- Quality improvement initiative, quasi-experimental design to measure effects of educational module and EHR documentation protocol regarding nurses & social workers’ knowledge of SBIRT and adherence to EHR SBIRT Protocol and documentation
- Setting: 569-bed tertiary hospital: Level I trauma center with approximately 49,000 visits annually
- Participants: (single convenience sample, non-randomized cohort)
- 30 nurses, 4 social workers
- ED patients meeting inclusion (English speaking), >18, GCS 15, ESI Triage Score 3, 4, or 5

Evidence-Based Initiative

- Effectiveness of SBIRT
  - Reductions in alcohol consumption
  - Fewer repeat ED visits, ED visits & repeat hospitalizations
  - Potential to increase adherence to alcohol treatment
  - Ranked 4th preventative service by USPSTF
- Theoretical Model
  - Roger’s Diffusion of Innovations
  - RE-AIM: Reach, Efficacy, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance
- Site Needs/Feasibility
  - Organizational needs assessment revealed practice gap with no current routine alcohol screening

Evaluation

- Educational Module Evaluation
- 10 multiple-choice questions based on content
- Expert panel determining content validity
- Cronbach’s alpha
- Paired sample t-test to note differences between pretest and posttest
- Program Evaluation
- Nonparametric descriptive statistics
- Likert scale rating perception of achievement of each objective and teaching effectiveness
- Alcohol SBIRT Protocol and Documentation EMR Evaluation
- Nonparametric descriptive statistics; AUDIT score: risk stratification; patient characteristics
- Compliance Monitoring:
  - Linked to performance evaluation; work-time allowance; CE credit; weekly email reminders
- Stakeholder Support/Sustainability:
  - Team support; SBIRT embedded in EMR; SBIRT champions identified; ongoing training

Practice Implications

- The team of ED nurses and social workers, working collaboratively may improve care for health care providers to recognize unhealthy alcohol behaviors and have an influence on behavior change
- Developing/implementing an educational module for ED nurses & social workers is an efficient & effective method to promote education about alcohol SBIRT
- Revising the EHR to include an alcohol SBIRT protocol provides a standard mechanism for documentation

Universal alcohol SBIRT should be included as a standard practice for all ED patients

References