

³Department of Medicine, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Philadelphia, USA;

⁴Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, USA, ⁵Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, Philadelphia, USA;

⁶Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Philadelphia, USA; ⁷Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics, Philadelphia, USA

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Background Most existing centres for health technology assessment (HTA) are associated with payers or government agencies, and review and analyse emerging and costly technologies. Yet, such centres can exist within individual medical centres as well, and can use HTA methods locally to synthesise, disseminate and implement best clinical practices to improve the quality, safety and value of patient care.

Objectives Describe the structure, processes and outcomes of a model of hospital-based HTA (HB-HTA) in the US, such that it can be applied elsewhere.

Methods Our academic medical centre established the centre for Evidence-based Practice (CEP) in 2006. CEP synthesises guidelines and studies for clinical and administrative leaders to inform decision-making, integrates select syntheses into practice through clinical decision support (CDS), and provides education in evidence-based practice. Local utilisation and cost data are incorporated where appropriate.

Results Nearly 200 evidence reports have been completed to date, and over 35 reports have been integrated into CDS. The median time from project opening to first draft is 4 weeks. CEP also contracts with external organisations such as the CDC and AHRQ on systematic reviews and guidelines.

Discussion To complete reviews rapidly, we work closely with requestors to define the questions up front and limit the scope, use experienced analysts to perform high yield searches with single study reviews and extraction, and use best available evidence and existing guidelines and reviews.

Implications for Guideline Developers/Users An HB-HTA centre can develop, adapt and implement guidelines locally to support a culture of evidence-based practice and decision-making.

069 FACILITATING IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF VASCULAR DISEASE IN GENERAL PRACTICE

¹M Harris, ²J Litt, ³G Russell, ³D Mazza, ¹J Lloyd, ⁴N Zwar, ⁴R Taylor, ⁵M Van Driel, ⁶C Del Mar, ⁷Y Krastev, ¹S Parker, ⁶J Smith. ¹Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; ²Discipline of General Practice, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia; ³School of Primary Health Care, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia; ⁴School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, ⁵Discipline of General Practice, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; ⁶Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia; ⁷Ethics Secretariate, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

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Background Although evidence based guidelines have been developed and disseminated, up to a half of patients do not receive guideline based preventive care.

Objectives This study aims to evaluate a model for the implementation of preventive care guidelines in general practice.

Methods Following a development process for the intervention involving a mixed method study and a pilot carried out in three practices a cluster randomised controlled trial is being conducted in 31 practices across four states. The intervention involves training, preventive care audit, and visits from a facilitator based in

the local primary care support organisation. The facilitator assists practices to review their clinical audit and implement a practice plan structured around the 5As to improve the reach and quality of preventive care. Quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods are being used to assess impact on planned change within the practice, recalled and recorded preventive care, and patient behaviours and risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

Results Baseline data collection has been completed from practice staff and patients and the intervention is now complete. The recorded and patient recalled preventive care varied within and between practices resulting in a varied set of priorities for improvement. Early findings suggest that facilitation visits to review and plan improvements to the implementation of preventive guidelines are feasible, acceptable and can support organisational strategies to address gaps in care.

Discussion Our results may provide a model for local primary care support organisations to assist practices to improve their quality of preventive care.

070 STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDELINES ON OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY

Y Abrahamian, H Watson. Kaiser Permanente, Southern California Permanente Medical Group, Pasadena, USA

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Background Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) for adult obesity and overweight provide recommendations to clinicians on interventions for weight loss and maintenance. organisation-wide implementation of these guidelines is critical to achieve changes in practice and patient health outcomes.

Context To describe novel guideline implementation strategies used by a large US health care organisation to improve the care of obese and overweight adults.

Description of Best Practice An evidence-based CPG was developed to address management strategies for a rapidly increasing number of obese and overweight patients. Interventions aimed at practitioner, patient and systems levels were tailored to facilitate implementation of CPG recommendations. Practitioner interventions included basic knowledge dissemination via electronic distribution of CPGs, presentation of CPGs at clinician champions' meetings; and development of point-of-care job aids, such as in-clinic access to online CPGs and office prompts to refer obese patients to weight management classes. Patient-level interventions included proactive outreach for health education classes and telephone-based coaching; point-of-care educational publications; and after-visit summaries with weight management recommendations. Interventions at the systems level included proactive office encounter recording of patient BMI and exercise regimen; clinical performance goals; reporting of health outcomes of participants in weight management programmes; and, a physician continuing medical education (CME) course. Continued improvements in clinician/patient communication about weight, collection of patient weight information, and patient health outcomes have been observed.

Lessons for Guideline Developers, Adaptors, Implementers, and/or Users Novel approaches to integrating guidance on the management of obesity and overweight into practice can achieve significant changes in clinical practice and patient health outcomes.