

Increasing Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates by EMR Flagging

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BACKGROUND

As patients living with HIV/AIDS age, vaccination to pneumococcal pneumonia remain a critical component of primary prevention of pneumococcal disease. Despite the importance, many patients do not receive the vaccination and many healthcare workers are not familiar with the dosing schedule. In order to overcome these barriers, STAR Health Center flagged all chart due for pneumococcal vaccination.

PURPOSES

STAR Health Center, a part C Ryan White funded, implemented the flagging of each client's chart to ensure that at each visit the provider will be aware of the client's vaccination status and which dose would be required at that time.

RESULTS

Baseline pneumococcal rates was 54%. After implementing flagging system in EMR, rates improved within 6 months to 67% completed. Approximately 8% of patients refused vaccination, citing various barriers which included patient, provider and system wide barriers.

METHODS

STAR Health Center, a PCMH Level 3 based in SUNY Downstate Medical Center, actively reviews immunization rates and noted low rates for pneumococcal vaccination. Review of the pneumococcal guidelines was conducted at the monthly nurse-clinician meetings to educate both nursing and providers. Signage was displayed in the clinic. The nursing assistant then reviewed charts of patients who were not up to date with the vaccine and flagged each chart in the EMR for the patient to receive the vaccination at the next visit. A fishbone diagram was also created to review the barriers patients faced in not receiving the vaccine.

CONCLUSIONS

EMR flagging is an efficient mechanism to identify who is due for pneumococcal vaccination.

LESSONS LEARNED

Flagging individual charts was initially time consuming but once entered in the EMR, follow-up was facile.

LIMITATIONS

Barriers to flagging in EMR include, but are not limited to, resistance to EMR usage, usability, it does not eliminate erroneous documentation nor malpractice.

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE ADMINISTRATION DATA and EMR FLAGGING

Table 1: Barriers to Vaccination

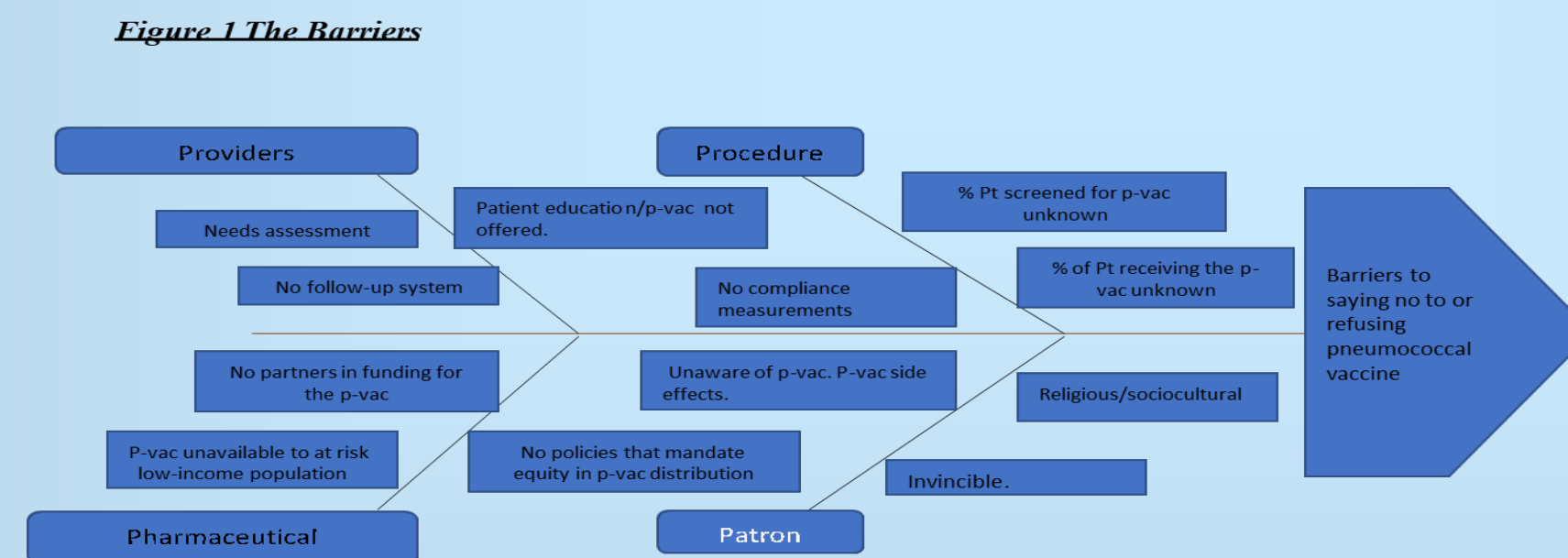


Table 2: Drill down of Vaccination

