IMPLEMENTING TEAM BASED CARE TO IMPROVE CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING RATE IN COMMUNITY BASED RESIDENT RUN CLINIC

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Background In 2015, for every 100,000 women, 8 new Cervical Cancer cases were reported and 2 died of cancer. The introduction of effective screening has led to a steady decrease in Invasive Cervical Cancer incidence and mortality in high-income countries however Socioeconomic status and access to health have created a cervical cancer disparity gap. This QI project was undertaken to evaluate and improve cervical cancer screening rates at a community-based resident-run IM clinic.

Objectives Increase screening rate to 50% by Dec 2018 and sustain increase rates to above 45% in all months in 2019.

Methods At the start of 2018, physician data reported that screening rates at the clinic were 36%, lower than those of our other clinical practices. A clinical survey was completed to assess patient understanding of cervical cancer screening. The first intervention was sharing individual provider data with the residents. This was a weak intervention and did not improve rates of screening. Our second intervention was a team-based approach and pre-visit planning: identify patients and calling them 1–2 days ahead and including PAP in the daily huddle.

Results The original survey showed that out of 124 women, 66 needed screening. Surveys intensified lack of continuity; several listed PCPs were not seeing their own patients, patients unsure of resources, and financial concerns as barriers. The team-based approach showed that more PAPs were being done per week, and was streamlined with staff feedback to minimize disruption to current workflow. With a goal of 50% by the end of 2018, we were able to achieve 48.9% screening rates. The increase was sustained above 45% in 8/12 months in 2019 (figure 1).

Conclusions Team-based practice is an effective practice in increasing cervical cancer screening to overcome challenges in continuity of care, health access disparity, and resource allocation in a primary care clinic.