Improving Rates of Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Completion at Time of Screening Mammography

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Purpose

**Early Screening:** Women at high risk for breast cancer benefit from earlier mammographic screening and supplemental screening MRI.

**Risk Assessment:** Cancer risk assessment (CRA) tools triage women into risk categories to guide appropriate screening.

**Challenge:** In the first month of CRA tool administration, only 9% of patients completed screening.

**Goal:** Increase CRA completion rate
Key barriers to screening completion

**Language**
English-only administration missed significant numbers of patients who often spoke Spanish or Cape Verdean Creole

**Limited Options**
Limited options for completing CRA screening tool at time of mammography

**Availability**
Availability was limited to business hours

**Manual Data Entry**
Technologist needing to input breast density

**Training**
Insufficient training of staff in explaining CRA screening to patients
Interventions

- CRA screening was emailed to participants prior to mammography visit
- Patients were actively encouraged to complete CRA by staff at time of mammogram,
- Forms with multiple languages were offered in both virtual (iPad) and paper format,
- Screening completion was double-checked by a technologist and administrator to ensure correct entry of data
Methods

**PRE-MAMMOGRAPHY**

- CRA screening is emailed to patient to complete prior to date of mammography

**AT MAMMOGRAPHY VISIT**

- Patient is prompted to complete CRA screen while waiting for mammogram
- The purpose of the CRA screen is explained to the patient in the native language of the patient
- Staff is trained to administer CRA tool
- CRA screen is offered on-site:
  - both on iPad and on paper
  - in the native language of patient

**POST-MAMMOGRAPHY**

- CRA screen is checked on patient’s record by technologist
- Secondary review is performed to ensure correct entry of data
Results: Immediate increase in CRA completion rates.

Figure 2: Percent of patients with successful CRA completion:

4 Mos:
- 8.8% → 50% in the first four months (p<0.01)

18 Mos:
- 50% → 71% at 18 months (p<0.01)
Conclusions

Using classic process improvement tools and a multi-step intervention focused largely on removing patient barriers to CRA completion, we significantly increased the rate of CRA completion at our breast imaging centers.
Thank You!

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