
CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Factors influencing screening uptake rate in healthcare institutions in Poland

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Introduction

As we agree that screening is the foundation of the effective healthcare, the primary care physician is the key in this process, responsible for identifying patients who should undergo further diagnostics, including oncological one.

Description of policy context and objective

The work's organisation and teams' engagement highly influence outcomes achieved. The aim of this study was to identify key factors potentially influencing the effectiveness of screening process made by the primary care team working in the integrated care setting. The thesis set was verified via targeted interviews survey.

Targeted population

450 health professionals, members of teams participating in the educational project "Explore the Value of Primary Health Care – Value of PHC".

Highlights

Factors impacting screening rate identified:

1. Engagement, motivation, persistency in implementing a new style of work, and strong belief that the personal involvement of each employee has a direct impact on overall patients' participation in screening, from unit to country level.
2. Skills:
 - professional – to have a well trained staff
 - organisational - to have contracts for screening programs with National Health Fund (NHF) executed. In Poland, contracts for screening programs are easily accessible for any healthcare provider, but only 1% of entities have them signed. Even quite low valuation of screening procedures offered by NHF still offers an income reducing potential ineffectiveness of resources involved in keeping medical entity running.
3. Understanding benefits offered by screening programs:
 - for patients - the target participation rate should be over 65%, optimally 85%. Noncompliant and out of care patients show abnormal results 3 times more frequently than groups under the proper care.

- for the medical entity and its staff – participating in screening programs' execution makes the work more attractive. The managements' task is to create the appropriate incentive system remunerating adequately all employees involved in the "optimal value chain" for their efforts.

4. Teamwork and collaboration on all organisational levels are key values.

5. Access to up-to date IT-technologies which reduce time of staff involvement in data processing in the long term perspective, but not always during the initial data entry. The uniform electronic patient records (EDM) should replace paper documentation which is still widely used in Poland.

6. Process mapping and its periodical evaluation. Systematic analysis (quarterly, annual) allows identification of bottlenecks, areas of ineffectiveness and particular team members strongly influencing final results.

Comments on transferability

Data and experiences collected within the project may be useful in preparation of organisational models of medical entities joining coordinated care organisations and/or interested in leveraging their organisational status on higher level.

Conclusions

Observations made and data collected clearly point out that the key factor in obtaining high efficiency in conducting screening procedures in PCUs are members of their teams, from the lowest level to the highest management: their engagement combined with the equipment with good procedures. Managing all the factors mentioned in this work is much easier in integrated care organization than outside of it.