In Theory and In Practice: Conducting a Case Study to Strengthen Continuing Medical Education

co-authors: Allison Eades¹, Andrew Crim², Pam McFadden² and Sean Hayes¹ PRESENTERS: Pam McFadden and Sean Hayes

CONCLUSION

- Findings from the case study were aligned with the principal objective to develop an in-depth understanding of actual processes and practice related to pneumococcal risk reduction within oncology clinics
- Results from program evaluation were aligned with observations from the case study
- Better understanding of context behind quantitative findings from program evaluation
- Allows for more targeted design and development

INNOVATION IN ASSESSMENT

Case study assessment and educational approaches are commonly used in CME. However, using an in-depth case study as a means of appreciative inquiry about a clinical best practice is innovative. It served as an added source of data relative to the needs assessment and facilitated an understanding of the unknowns more completely than in other frequently used assessment techniques. In this activity, the approach provided an in-depth understanding of interprofessional barriers, provider-to-patient barriers, barriers related to communication of multiple providers-to-patients, as well as system and contextual variables influencing optimum design and deployment of clinical recommendations.

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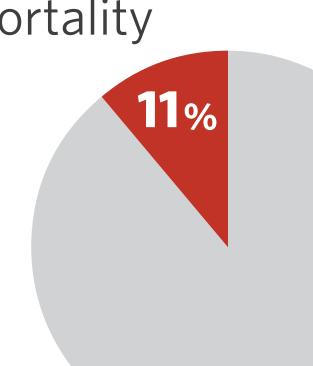




BACKGROUND

In the US, the most significant cause of vaccine-preventable deaths is invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD)ⁱ

Estimated 44,000 cases and 5,000 deaths reported in 2009ⁱⁱ



Individuals undergoing chemotherapy or radiation Guidelines state that individuals receiving treatment therapy are particularly susceptible to IPD should be immunized against streptococcus pneumonia ^{i, ii, iii}

HOWEVER

- Studies suggest that a significant number of individuals are not immunized or asked about their immunization status iv, v, vii, viii
- To validate developed CME content on pneumococcal risk reduction (PRR), and to ensure applicability and relevance for clinicians, a need for an in-depth understanding of clinical practice was identified

CASE STUDY RESULTS

- Clinics did not have any specific strategies or protocols related to PRR
- Lack of knowledge about :
 - Vaccine
- Target populations for immunization
- Impact of double dosage
- Timing for administering vaccines in patients undergoing chemotherapy

- Participants perceived value of pneumococcal risk reduction
- Perception that a standing order for the pneumococcal vaccine could increase protection of the patient without burdening medical oncologists
- Enthusiasm about incorporating assessment of vaccination status in standard procedures

LINK WITH OVERALL PROGRAM EVALUATION

- Data from case study served as contextual information for interpretation of program evaluation findings
- Only 43% of participants considered PRR as a priority prior to the program
- Following the program, 88% planned to speak about PRR at their next staff meeting

- Program evaluation results indicate:
- Increased prioritization of PRR in the clinic
- Identification of opportunities to include PRR in daily practice
- Remaining gaps in medical knowledge on vaccine
- Increased awareness and motivation to educate patients on PRR
- Increased awareness of factors impacting PRR (Clinic protocol, Roles and responsibilities, Perceived value of PRR by providers)

OBJECTIVES

- Assess the status and processes by which preventative vaccination is carried out for community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) in oncology practices
- Identify patterns of change in oncology clinics, including processes, structures, and key personnel

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Inform the development of an educational program that will:
- Facilitate clinical quality improvement
- Improve clinician and patient awareness, PRR and enhanced patient outcomes

- Characterize the process by which the Pneumococcal Risk Reduction roadmap is introduced and implemented and the impact that it has on practice
- This case study supported the overall activity, including the following components:
 - Interprofessional steering group
 - Interprofessional content development committee
 - Faculty-led roundtable cases and discussions
 - Naturalistic clinical observation and focus groups
 - Presentations at regional oncology conferences Live-online and on-demand online activities
- Comprehensive outcomes strategy

METHODS

In medical education, case studies are recognized as an educational activity to increase clinical skills

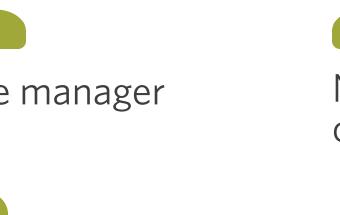
Clinic Naturalistic Observation

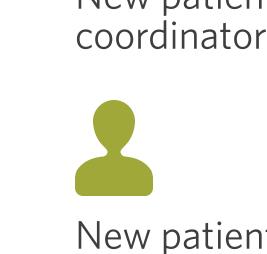
- 1 day/clinic
- IRB approved
- Observed individuals, reviewed clinic forms, photographed clinic environment
- 3 clinics located in North Texas:



- In this program a case study was used as a research method to support the development of an educational initiative on pneumococcal risk reduction in cancer patients
- Focus Group
- Live (1.5 hrs)
- IRB approved
- Health professionals in oncology
- 6 participants with key roles in clinics







New patient coordinator

Explored clinics'

strengths and challenges • patient flow through the clinic • protocols, procedures • perceptions related to pneumococcal risk reduction

