

EVALUATION OF PATIENT PERSPECTIVES ON ROUTINE HIV SCREENING IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In collaboration with investigators at the Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, we are developing and pilot testing a set of evaluation tools for use by clinical sites implementing routine HIV screening in primary care settings in accord with the recently-released CDC guidelines. The tools will help staff in these settings to assess patient and provider preferences, satisfaction and attitudes with respect to CDC recommended practice, including opt-out screening, patients' perceptions of their ability to decline testing, the sufficiency and effectiveness of methods used to impart information prior to testing and the acceptability of different methods for providing test results.

Tool development will be accomplished in two steps. The first is to conduct in-depth qualitative interviews with patients exiting healthcare visits and with providers who have implemented routine screening in their practice. Results from the first phase will be used to develop a quantitative patient assessment of patient attitudes, reactions and acceptance of new models for HIV screening and prevention and their outcomes in terms of patient care. This assessment will be validated through administration to as many as 450 patients seen in three sites nationally, one emergency room and two primary care settings (one seeing primarily privately insured patients, the other publicly-insured ones). In the second step, findings from this project will be collected in a toolkit of clinical evaluation instruments and protocols for assessing patient experiences and outcomes associated with the enhanced screening projects. The toolkit will be disseminated through tailored technical assistance provided through the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) AIDS Education and Training Centers program.

SIGNIFICANCE

The patient and provider assessment tools developed as part of this project will help clinical sites implementing routine HIV screening in developing quality assurance plans, including assuring that the patients receive accurate, accessible information about testing, consent and privacy.

PROJECT RECRUITMENT DATES: Recruitment for the formative phase of this project will take place in March and April 2008. The quantitative validation survey will take place in three different sites between May and July 2008.

PROJECT END DATE: September 2008