Vaccination as Cancer Prevention: Barriers and Facilitators of a Quality Improvement Intervention to Improve HPV Vaccination Rates Among Adolescents

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Abstract

Background: In 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded American Cancer Society (ACS) a cooperative agreement to increase Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination rates among Medicaid beneficiaries. Through a pilot Maintenance of Certification (MOC) intervention, ACS partnered with six MOC sites to improve HPV vaccination rates. This study describes barriers to care and facilitators of success.

Methods: A mixed-methods study included (1) 2.5-hour site visits to six MOC sites for data collection, including interviews, structured observations, and document reviews; and (2) a 12-month follow-up of six sites to document vaccination rates. Interviews were conducted with ACS liaisons, MOC site directors, and providers and included 56 interviews. Both interviews and observations included questions about provider and clinic characteristics. Interviews and observations were conducted at the intervention’s start, in months 2 and 6, and at the 12-month follow-up.

Data Analyses: Data were collected in a 3-step process. First, interviews were transcribed. Second, data from interviews and observations were documented in field notes. Third, the field notes were analyzed. Interviews were listened to and transcribed. The field notes were analyzed by identifying and coding barriers to care and facilitating factors across sites.

Results: Two key themes were identified: (1) Barriers to Care and (2) Facilitating Factors. Barriers to Care included low health literacy, provider comfort, clinic electronic health records, parental resistance, and cost concerns. Facilitating Factors included language, patient reminders, provider comfort, clinic electronic health records, and clinic management.

Conclusions: This study identifies key factors to improve clinic HPV vaccination rates and provides recommendations for a successful MOC intervention.

Keywords: Human Papilloma Virus, Children's Health, Vaccine, Health Literacy, Quality Improvement