

Reaction of health professionals to chronic disease Clinical Decision Support (CDS)

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Background: Clinical Decision Support (CDS) systems that provide health professionals with evidence-based care recommendations have the potential to improve patient-centeredness of care by individualizing recommendations for each patient; however, it is important to know whether health professionals find them useful and usable. We implemented ATHENA-Hypertension (ATHENA-HTN), a CDS for management of primary hypertension, to assist primary care providers (PCPs) in individualizing patient care.

Objective/Purpose: To evaluate the usefulness and usability of ATHNEA-HTN in a primary care clinical environment.

Methods: The 46 PCPs enrolled at 4 medical centers in the active intervention arm were asked to complete a post-intervention survey. 41/46 (89%) of these PCPs responded to the survey: 16 MDs, 24 NPs, and 1 PA. PCPs rated their experience in terms of the usefulness of the information provided, ease of understanding the information presented, and ease of using the system. Response options for survey questions were of 3 types: (1) "Very Useful", "Useful", "Not Useful", "Don't Know/No Opinion"; (2) "Excellent", "Good", "Fair", "Poor"; or (3) "Very Often", "Often", "Not Often".

Results: Many PCPs reported that they found ATHENA-HTN to be "Useful" or "Very Useful" as a reminder to manage hypertension (34/41(83%)); to intensify treatment when the patient's BP was above target (34/41(83%)); and to consider thiazides as part of a multi-drug regimen (27/41(66%)). They reported that "Often" or "Very Often" information ATHENA-HTN presented was useful (29/40(73%)) and had an impact on their choice of treatment (18/39(46%)). The system was rated as having "Excellent" or "Good" readability (30/41(73%)), ease of navigation (27/41(66%)), and integration with overall clinical workflow (21/41 (51%)). PCPs also found the BP prescription graphs (21/37 (57%)) and the ability to enter in a new BP and update the advisory (19/39 (54%)) to be useful.

Discussion/Conclusions: CDS such as ATHENA-HTN can assist PCPs with providing evidence-based care to patients.

Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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