Using Maintenance of Certification to Promote Advance Directives: A Comparison Between Practicing Family Physicians and Their Resident Counterparts

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Background

- Advance Directive (AD) completion rates remain low even when their importance is understood
- Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV is an opportunity to promote AD completion through performance improvement cycles
- Brief conversations held over time at primary care visits support the completion of the patients’ ADs

Aim

- Do Family Medicine residents (FMRs) & physicians (FMPs) perceive similar barriers to initiating AD discussions with geriatric patients?

Methods

- Separate MOC “kickoff” workshops were held for 38 FMRs (PG1-3) and 8 experienced FMPs
- Workshops addressed skills to initiate brief conversations about ADs with elderly patients
- Participants engaged through interactive activities
- Retrospective “pre-post” evaluations focused on workshop processes and outcomes
- Results from FMRs were compared to FMPs

Workshop Evaluation Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident Evaluation</th>
<th>Experienced Physician Evaluation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Takes too much time to initiate Advance Directive discussions with my ≥65 yo patients.</td>
<td>It's uncomfortable/depressing to initiate an Advance Directive discussion with my ≥65 yo patients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't know what to say to initiate an Advance Directive discussion with my ≥65 yo patients.</td>
<td>I don't feel competent to initiate an Advance Directive discussion with my ≥65 yo patients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you ___ likely to initiate an Advance Directive discussions with your ≥65 yo patients now than prior to today's session?</td>
<td>How likely are you to recommend session to a colleague?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Likely</td>
<td>More Likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither More nor Less Likely</td>
<td>Neither More nor Less Likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Likely</td>
<td>Less Likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major barrier</td>
<td>Major barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate barrier</td>
<td>Moderate barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor barrier</td>
<td>Minor barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer a significant barrier</td>
<td>No longer a significant barrier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary

- Evidence-based barriers to geriatric care and ADs decreased in both FMRs and FMPs:
  - Time became less of a barrier to initiating AD conversations
  - Comfort and competency of what to say were improved
  - AD conversations were more likely to be initiated
- FPRs’ and FMPs’ responses were similar, except:
  - PRE-WORKSHOP: 26% of FPRs reported discomfort was NOT a barrier compared to 0% of FMPs
  - POST-WORKSHOP: Experienced FMPs reported time as less of a barrier than FMRs

Take Home

An interactive MOC workshop increased comfort & skills in initiating Advance Directive conversations in Family Med Residents and experienced Family Med Physicians

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