

Research to Help Underserved Populations

Innovative Adaptation and Dissemination of AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness Research Products

A Low Literacy Multimedia Approach to Disseminate Bilingual Diabetes CERSGs

Purpose/Description

Type 2 diabetes is characterized by patient self-management to a greater extent than most chronic illnesses, and most educational materials are available in print only. By providing information in a combination of written and audio format, DiabetesHelp-Talking Touchscreen (DHelp-TT) presents valuable information about diabetes care that patients can understand regardless of their literacy skills. This project intended to improve the accessibility of comparative effectiveness research findings for underserved populations (low income, low literacy, racial/ethnic minorities, Spanish-speaking) receiving care in a safety net institution. A randomized trial was conducted to test whether a bilingual, low literacy, multimedia information and assessment system used in daily clinical practice increases the impact of diabetes-specific AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness Research Summary Guides (CERSGs), enhances patient-centered care, and improves patient outcomes.

Project Aims

The project aims were to:

- 1) Evaluate the relationships between patient characteristics, resources, needs, health behaviors and health outcomes using the Behavioral Model for Vulnerable Populations.
- 2) Determine the short-term cost-effectiveness of the TT and develop a budget impact model to assess the affordability of the TT.

Findings

The DHelp-TT software was favorably rated by intervention participants. Both study groups in both languages improved in terms of comprehension of the educational material by approximately 1 to 2 points. Participants in the intervention (DHelp-TT) arm who reviewed material on pills improved more than those who reviewed booklets. No differences were observed for those who reviewed material on insulin. Overall, 14% to 23% of participants had no preference for software (DHelp-TT) vs. booklets, 8% to 27% preferred the booklets, and 14% to 50% preferred the software. Analyses of other study endpoints are ongoing.

Publications: None as of 12/19/14

Study Populations

Spanish speaking
English speaking

Health Condition Addressed

Diabetes

Dissemination Tool and/or Method

Bilingual multimedia Health IT system

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Hahn

Institution/Partner: Northwestern University

Project Period: 9/1/2010 – 8/31/2013

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