Initiation of a Standardized Substance Use Screening Tool Among Pregnant Women at a Community Health Clinic in Boston

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Background

- In 2018, there were 1,617 confirmed opioid-related overdose deaths, and approximately 30% of these deaths were among women
- Nationally, a majority of prenatal patients (70%) are screened for drug, tobacco or alcohol use, yet the rates in Massachusetts are unknown.

Methods

- Cross-sectional quality improvement project conducted at The Dimock Center from September 2018–July 2019.
  - Inclusion criteria: pregnant women attending their first prenatal appointment at The Dimock Center

Measures

- The measure for this QI project was the Screening to Brief Intervention Tool (S2BI), a 5-item, standardized assessment tool with a Likert scale.
- The S2BI was included in the patient’s health history packet.
  - Medical assistants instructed the women to complete the packet and it was then handed to the OB provider for review.
  - Excel was used to analyze the coded data

Purpose

- The purpose of this project was to ensure that all prenatal patients are screened for substance use
- This was made possible through the Maternal-Child Health Nurse Leadership Academy (MCHNLA) which is sponsored by Johnson & Johnson

Results

- **Preferred Spoken Language**
  - English
  - Spanish

- **Age Distribution**

- **Marijuana Use**

- **Prescription Drug Use**

Project Outcomes

- **Organization**
  - Patients at The Dimock Center have benefitted from this quality improvement project
  - 100% of new prenatal patients were screened for substance use and 100% of those with positive screens were counseled and offered appropriate resources

- **Leadership Journey**
  - This project began by challenging the process of how prenatal patients were screened for substance use.
  - Working within my organization to promote the need for this screening standardization, others were enabled to act, thus fostering team collaboration.

- **Beneficiaries**
  - This project directly benefitted obstetricians (3), nurse practitioners (2), registered nurses (3), behavioral health clinicians (2), and community health workers (2).

Discussion

- The use of this tool allowed for the identification of patients who could benefit from substance use intervention.
- Patients who had a positive screen all were offered behavioral health and addiction recovery services.
- Given the success of this project, an expansion to survey all OBGYN patients is planned in the near future.

References

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