Improving the Quality and Delivery of Substance Use Disorder

Resource List

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New Mexico’s death rates from substance use disorders (SUD) have consistently ranked above the national average. The state of New Mexico has numerous organizations that help individuals living with SUD. University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) social workers had previously compiled a list of these resources; however, it was neither updated nor used often.

In this quality improvement project, we aim to improve the quality, awareness, and distribution of this list in UNMH internal medicine (IM) inpatient units.

We improved the quality and organization of the SUD resource list following feedback from social workers, students, and individuals with SUD. After two months of IM attending and resident physician education, our quality improvement project increased the awareness and knowledge of how to access the updated list within the department. These successes demonstrate that a simple delivery method for resource lists can be implemented in a short period of time.

Next steps:
- Continue to spread awareness through biweekly education sessions with IM and additional UNMH departments
- Perform retrospective chart reviews to determine frequency of list use and list accessibility
- Design a method to determine if patients visit these resources

Limitations:
- Maintenance of resource list updating and continued education
- Feedback from patients for resource list satisfaction

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2. J. Cooksey, MSW, personal communication, January 28, 2019