To improve routine, opt-out HIV Screening in all three of the Vidant Medical Center Emergency Departments (Adult, Children’s (CED), and Minor (MED)) for people age 18-64 who will have blood work done in the ED and have not had an HIV test documented in the electronic medical record (EMR) in the past year by 20% within 4 months. Also, to successfully link all HIV-positive patients to HIV care at the ECU-HIV Program and other HIV clinics in the region.

PROJECT AIM

CARE SETTING

Vidant Medical Center – Emergency Department

- Almost 50% of new HIV infections are found in Southern US, 1 in 7 may not know they are infected
- Pitt County is among those with highest rates in NC but only 121 HIV tests done at VMC ED in 2015
- ED focus promotes detection in underinsured, uninsured, and high-risk patients

DETAILS & INTERVENTIONS

- CDC recommendation for yearly tests (for age 13+) and high HIV rates in Pitt County led to Gilead Sciences Inc. sponsored HIV testing project
- EMR algorithm → BPA alert for eligible patients → positive HIV result → alerting of linkage coordinator (can link and re-link care)
- Outcomes showed that HIV testing increased by 5,421% - overall number of tests increased, but decreasing trend in tests performed over time

STRENGTHS

- Multiple PDSA cycles allowed for increased care team education, expansion, and BPA alert changes
- 22 new HIV diagnosis → 21 linked to care at HIV Specialty care Clinic

OPPORTUNITIES

- Shared mental model amongst care team → buy-in from nursing staff → increased testing of eligible patients
- Improve language of “opt-out” testing with patients to reduce HIV stigma

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Identify and invest in a nurse champion
2. Notify nurses of their individual statistics on the percentage of eligible patients they are testing
3. Display overall testing rate trends by month to increase awareness and assist in goal setting
4. Periodic re-education and monitoring

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