

There are seriously ill patients who could benefit from palliative care services, who are not captured by our current screening tool.

Using a Palliative Care Registry to generate early referrals to Palliative Care: Who are we missing?

L. Glaser MD, T. Krinard DO, L. Hoff MD, L. Lyon MS



Introduction

- Palliative care (PC) provides symptom relief and treatment to patients with serious illness.
- Research shows PC leads to shorter hospital stays, lower costs, decreased readmission rates, and improved quality of life.
- The PC team at Kaiser Permanente Santa Rosa screens patients who are diagnosed with specific end-stage conditions who are placed on a regional PC Registry
- This project aimed to understand whether unnecessary hospitalization could have been avoided if patients were referred to PC at an earlier stage in their disease progression (*before* being placed on this registry).

Methods

- We compared patients who had contact with the PC team in the year prior to Registry enrollment to those who had no contact before being enrolled on the Registry.
- We compared the number and percent of ED and hospital admissions across the two cohorts.
- We also conducted qualitative chart review on 20 patients to understand when PC referrals took place in the disease progression.

Results & Conclusion

- 83% (n=301) of patients had not previously received PC services prior to being added to the registry
- Chart review showed patients who were referred to PC had a greater disease burden
- The Registry could be further refined to capture patients who may benefit from seeing the PC team earlier in the course of their serious illness before they become high utilizers.

