

CDA 13-272: Evaluating and Improving Osteoporosis Care for Male Veterans

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Background / Rationale:

VA primary care staff nationwide have been reorganized into "Patient Aligned Care Teams" (PACTs) in order to provide high quality management of Veterans with chronic conditions. Yet, prior research has found that many male Veterans at risk for a common chronic condition, osteoporosis (OP), are neither identified with the gold standard test for OP known as DXA, nor treated with medications. The research proposed in this application directly addresses this problem through three related studies.

Objective(s):

The overarching goal is to identify and mitigate existing barriers to PACT-based DXA testing in high risk men. This goal will be accomplished through three related studies, whose aims include: 1) to evaluate DXA testing rates among male Veterans at high risk for osteoporosis; 2) to identify factors influencing PACT-based DXA testing of high risk men; and 3) to work with VA clinical and operations staff to develop and pilot test a PACT-based intervention to improve DXA testing.

Methods:

Statistical methods and qualitative techniques will be used to analyze: 1) VA and Medicare claims data for older male Veterans; and 2) qualitative data collected from VA health care providers and operational leadership.

Status:

Aim 1: Analysis of one cohort is complete and the remaining analyses are nearing completion. An informal horizon scan has been completed to identify sampling for Aim 2. Aim 3 will be initiated in later years.

Impact:

The research will: 1) address known knowledge gaps by quantifying the number of male Veterans at high risk of osteoporosis who have not been identified by a clinician; and 2) partner with VA clinical and operations staff to design and test an intervention to improve OP care. By leveraging administrative data to improve osteoporosis care, the research has the potential to reduce the considerable morbidity associated with this condition and to establish VA as a national leader in primary care- based management of geriatric chronic conditions.

Additional Information:

Journal Articles

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6. Solimeo SL, Ono SS, Stewart KR, Lampman MA, Rosenthal GE, Stewart GL. Gatekeepers as Care Providers: The Care Work of Patient-centered Medical Home Clerical Staff. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. 2017 Mar 1; 31(1):97-114.
7. Solimeo SL, Stewart GL, Rosenthal GE. The Critical Role of Clerks in the Patient-Centered Medical Home. *Annals of Family Medicine*. 2016 Jul 1; 14(4):377-9.
8. Solimeo SL, Stewart KR, Stewart GL, Rosenthal G. Implementing a patient centered medical home in the Veterans health administration: Perspectives of primary care providers. *Healthcare (Amsterdam, Netherlands)*. 2014 Dec 1; 2(4):245-50.
9. Stewart KR, Stewart GL, Lampman M, Wakefield B, Rosenthal G, Solimeo SL. Implications of the Patient-Centered Medical Home for Nursing Practice. *The Journal of nursing administration*. 2015 Nov 1; 45(11):569-74.
10. Sullivan JL, Eisenstein R, Price T, Solimeo S, Shay K. Implementation of the Geriatric Patient-Aligned Care Team Model in the Veterans Health Administration (VA). *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine : JABFM*. 2018 May 1; 31(3):456-465.
11. Sullivan JL, Shin M, Adjognon O, Shay K, Harvey K, Intrator O, Yaksic E, Moyer JA, Solimeo S. Geriatric Patient-Aligned Care Teams in the Department of Veterans Affairs: How are they structured? *Geriatrics*. 2018 Aug 1; 2018(3):46.

Journal Other

12. Solimeo SL. Capsule commentary on Zuchowski et al., challenges in referral communication between VHA primary care and specialty care. *Journal of general internal medicine*. 2015 Mar 1; 30(3):344.

Online News Media Articles

13. Solimeo S. Clerks - The Unsung Heroes of Primary Care? VA anthropologists study clerks' underappreciated role in medical practices. *VA Research Currents* [Internet]. 2016 Sep 13. Available from: <http://www.research.va.gov/currents/0916-2.cfm>.
14. Solimeo S. Clerical Staff Serve Critical Role on Patient-Centered Care Team. *Annals of Family Medicine Research* [Internet]. 2016 Aug 31. Available from: <http://www.aafp.org/news/practice-professional-issues/20160831pcmhclerks.html>.

Reports

15. Sullivan JL, Adjognon O, Shin M, Steffen M, Moyer JA, Solimeo S. Report 2: GeriPACT Program Implementation and Organizational Factors Associated with GeriPACT Functioning and Performance. Boston: CHOIR; 2018 Mar 29. 25 p.

HSR&D or QUERI Articles

16. Lampman L, Solimeo SL, Stewart G, Stockdale SE. Enhancing PACT Implementation Through Qualitative Research. *FORUM: Translating Research Into Quality Health Care for Veterans*. 2017 Jun 1; 2017(Spring): 5.