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An audit on smoking status entry in Clinical Management System (CMS)

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Introduction

Cigarette smoking is a well-known risk factor for a list of diseases. Promotion of smoking cessation thus reduces disease load in a health care system. To succeed, pre-requisite is the awareness of one's smoking status. Studies had shown that an effective smoking status notification system can positively influence the outcome of smoking cessation.

Objectives

To evaluate and improve adherence of entry of smoking status in Clinical Management System (top right hand smoking icon).

Methodology

All attendee to West Kowloon General Out-patient Clinic general doctor session were recruited. Patients aged below 18 were excluded. Phase I audit period started from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2015. Phase II audit period started from 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016. Patient code was retrieved from Clinical Data Analysis and Reporting System (CDARS) and subsequently randomized for record review. Sample size was calculated with expected frequency of 80%, accuracy margin 5% and confidence interval 95%. Chi-square test was used to assess whether changes after intervention was significant.

Result

Intervention

Intervention period started from 1st March 2016 to 31st December 2016. Measures of improvement included (1) raising awareness of smoking status entry to both doctors and nurses during clinic meeting, (2) assigning a nurse for smoking cessation promotion.

Results

In phase I, 14513 patients were identified and 250 were selected after randomization. 228 (91%) patients had their smoking status entered. In phase II, 26309 patients were identified and 250 were selected after randomization. 244 (97%) patients had their

smoking status entered. The overall adherence of smoking status entry improved significantly from 91% to 97% ($p < 0.05$)

Conclusion

Entry of smoking status is foundation of promotion of smoking cessation. It is worth of knowing your own clinic's adherence of smoking status entry because simple measures can improve adherence. Although there is no international standard for adherence to entry of smoking status, all attendee to GOPC should theoretically be assessed about his smoking status. The smoking icon in Clinical Management System(CMS) provides a good mean to show smoking status because it is self-explanatory, easy to see and appears once patient profile was open. As for the effect of adherence of smoking status entry to smoking cessation rate, it requires further study to elaborate.