Impact of a Student-Run Clinic in a Non-Profit Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Facility for Women

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Substance abuse is a growing problem among women and is frequently accompanied by multiple gynecologic concerns, including sexually transmitted infections and cervical cancer. While these issues are easily screened for and readily treated, left untreated they can increase the risk of infertility and death. Residential substance abuse rehabilitation facilities offer an excellent opportunity to address these concerns. The purpose of this report is to examine the impact of an all-volunteer, medical student-run clinic with faculty supervision within a non-profit, inner-city women’s residential substance abuse rehabilitation facility.

Introduction

625 clients were admitted, regardless of financial status, to a 70-bed residential substance abuse rehabilitation facility from January 2016 through August 2018. As part of ongoing clinical operations Pap and sexually transmitted infection (STI) tests were performed. The number of abnormal test results was recorded weekly in a de-identified manner in order to document community outreach activities to support Tulane Cancer Center’s accreditation. These data were analyzed to assess the impact of the student-run preceptor clinic.

Methods

In 2011, a student-run clinic was established as a partnership between Tulane University School of Medicine and Grace House, a New Orleans based non-profit residential substance abuse rehabilitation facility for women. The primary role of the clinic is to identify and address potential medical problems that may impact clients during the several months they spend in residence.

Services Offered:
- Patient Education
- History and Physical Exam
- Testing: Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Pap smear, HPV, HIV, Hepatitis C, Pregnancy
- Microscopy: Wet Prep

Clinic Background

Client utilization of Pap and STI testing services is moderate. Further investigation by client eligibility for testing would clarify whether these services are being underutilized.

Despite living in an area with high rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia, the rates reported at the clinic have been low.

Pap and HPV testing has been particularly successful in providing clients with meaningful information to modify their cancer risk.

After eight years, the clinic continues to provide needed services to the community and training for medical students in a cost-effective manner.

Discussion

Investigate reasons why clients choose not to participate in testing in order to improve patient education and services offered.

Assess rate of client follow-up and outcomes from referrals to colposcopy in order to better understand the impact of initial Pap screening.

Assess and improve time between clinic visit and client notification of test results.

Introduce syphilis testing to provide clients with a more comprehensive assessment of their health in the high-risk area of New Orleans.

Future Directions

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Declined Testing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pap</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea/Chlamydia</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pap Testing Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesion Type</th>
<th>January-August 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malignant/Premalignant</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-risk HPV</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichomonas</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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