

Evaluating Psychiatric Patients' Attitudes of a Shared Electronic Medical Record

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Evaluating Psychiatric Patients' Attitudes of a Shared Electronic Medical Record

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Purpose

As our large regional health network engages in the transition from a private behavioral health record to an integrated electronic medical record, as required by the Affordable Care Act, opportunities arise to assess patients' perception of this process. As part of ongoing quality improvement, the Department of Psychiatry surveyed mental health outpatients in "integrated" primary care medical practices about their perceptions of a shared electronic medical record.

Methods

An eight-question survey was distributed to outpatients in a variety of primary care settings where mental health services were performed including both specialty and primary care offices. Patients provided basic demographic information including gender and age range. The questions were scored on a four point Likert scale from (1) I disagree completely to (4) I agree completely. Higher scores indicated greater agreement. Questions focused on patients' awareness of the shared record, patients' comfort level with sharing of mental health information, and patient concerns about stigma and privacy.

Results

95 surveys were completed. Respondents were 57% female, 27% male and 16% did not disclose gender. There were no differences from a gender standpoint. Patient's ages were grouped and 3% of patients were age 18-20, 7% were age 20-29, 14% were age 30-39, 23% were age 40-49, 41% were 50 or older and 11% did not disclose age range. Independent sample t-tests were used to examine differences between age and gender categories. There were no statistically significant differences between groups. The

Results

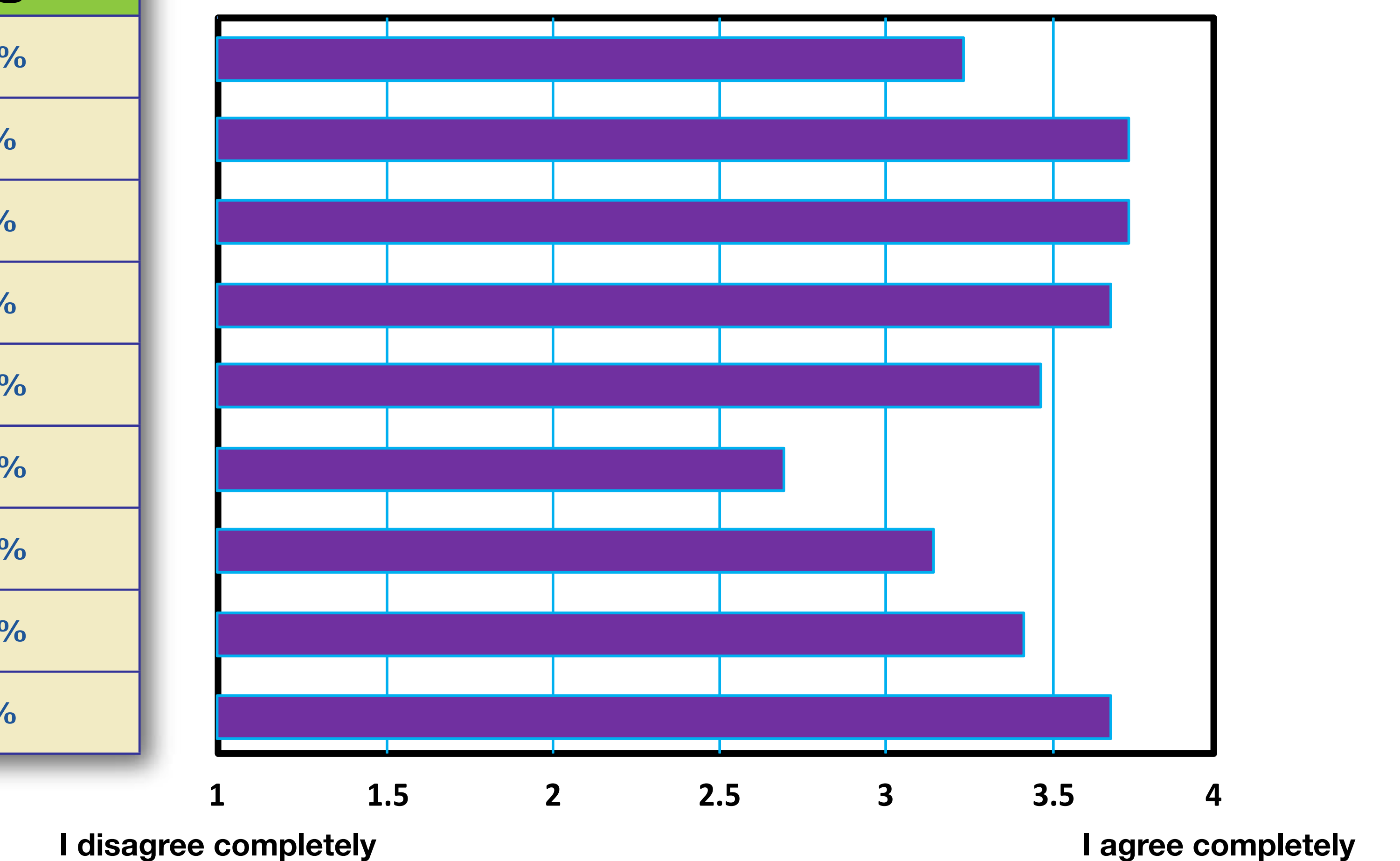
Table 1. Demographics

Demographics	Number
Female	54
Male	26
Did not disclose	15
Age 18-19	3
Age 20-29	7
Age 30-39	13
Age 40-49	22
Age 50+	39
Did not disclose	11

Table 2. Attitude Questionnaire

Question	N Agreed	N Disagreed
1. I was already aware that my physician's office was using a "shared" electronic Record	77%	23%
2. I can appreciate how important it is for my personal health to share all medical records	94%	6%
3. I am comfortable with my mental health records being shared with my primary care physician	95%	5%
4. I am comfortable with my mental health records being shared with the Emergency Room Physicians when I need urgent care.	93%	7%
5. I am comfortable with my mental health records being shared with all my specialists (ie. Cardiologist, OB-GYN, etc.)	85%	15%
6. I am (not) worried about mental health stigma as it relates to the electronic medical record.	55%	45%
7. I am now (not) more selective about what I tell my provider with a shared electronic record.	71%	29%
8. I am comfortable with the new electronic medical record in my physician's office.	88%	12%
9. My physician appears comfortable with the new electronic medical record.	98%	2%

Mean Score



highest mean score was 3.73 (SD = 0.66) for "I am comfortable with my mental health records being shared with my primary care physician." The two lowest average scores were 2.69 (SD = 1.15) for "I am (not) worried about mental health stigma as it relates to the electronic medical record," and 3.14 (SD = 1.03) for "I am now (not) more selective about what I tell my provider with a shared electronic record."

Conclusions

During a transition from a private mental health record to a shared electronic medical record, mental health patients were generally

comfortable with the idea of and transition to a shared electronic medical record. Answers to stigma and privacy concerns scored slightly lower than other questions but still indicate patients' overall agreement with a shared medical record.

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