

The Information Seeking Behaviors of Providers Regarding Benefits/Harms of Treatments at Lehigh Valley Health Network-A Pilot Study

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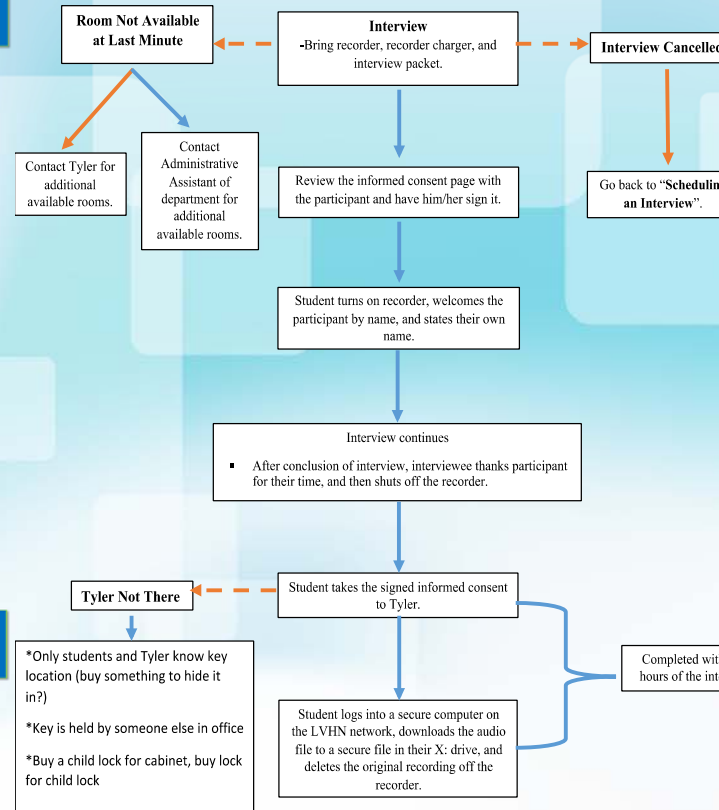
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

- Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) is the practice of choosing the best quality evidence for management of each patient[1],[2]
- The advent of the internet has changed the clinical encounter due to the availability of healthcare information to both providers and patients [3-5]
- This study seeks to examine the evidence searching behaviors of physicians and advanced practice clinicians (APCs) at LVHN to generate a hypothesis relating to evidence searching behaviors.
- Participants will be chosen from a list of eight specialty practices, including Dental Medicine, Emergency & Hospital Medicine, Family Medicine, Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Surgery.
- The purpose of this portion of the project is to test the data collection method that will be used once the study is fully implemented.

METHODS

- Over the next two years, 126 physicians/APCs from eight specialties will contribute data to the study.
- Study was approved by the IRB (Institutional Review Board) under protocol #PRO-00003891.
- Data will be collected using an in depth one-on-one qualitative interview technique.
- Interviews will be conducted using an interview guide consisting of thirty open-ended questions relating to information searching behaviors.
- Pilot interviews conducted with three physicians and two medical students to develop the format and possible interpretations of the questions.
- Data was obtained during interviews with an audio recording device as well as written notes. Audio files will then be transcribed into Excel spreadsheets to organize data.
- The data gathered via this study will help facilitate faculty development sessions that could improve the evidence searching behaviors of providers and lead to better patient outcomes.



RESULTS

- Physicians were likely to use databases such as PubMed and Medline depending on what condition the patient presented.
- DynaMed was found to be a common secondary source. Ovid is another database that is often accessed through PubMed. Google Scholar is used rarely.
- Physicians/APCs request access to the Up-to-Date software program.
- Reliability is determined by the journal from which information was sourced, the methodology of the study, and the generalizability of the study population to the patient in question.
- Physicians/APCs desire training approximately every 3 months on how to improve their evidence searching techniques and were willing to participate in a future survey regarding evidence-based-resources.

CONCLUSIONS

- Physicians/APCs value evidence searching as part of clinical practice
- There is a general desire for more resources to conduct evidence searches
- Providers are open to further EBM training

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