Implementation of Technology-based Patient Engagement Strategies within Practice-Based Research Networks (Poster)

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Implementation of Technology-based Patient Engagement Strategies within Practice-Based Research Networks

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BACKGROUND

• Technology for patient engagement (such as patient portals to transmit decision aids, texting to transmit blood glucose) is increasingly available; it is unclear how much is being incorporated into practice-based research
• Use of these strategies may promote patient-centered care and improve health-related outcomes
• PBRN directors have a unique vantage to provide insight into the use of technology within PBRNs

OBJECTIVES:

• To explore availability and usage of technology-based patient engagement strategies in PBRNs
• To identify potential barriers and facilitators to implementation of patient-facing technologies in practice-based research

METHOD:

Data collected as part of omnibus Council of Academic Family Medicine Educational Research Alliance’s (CERA) 2015 PBRN Director Survey

STUDY DESIGN:

An original 10-question survey was developed.

Questions addressed:
• Current use of technology-based patient engagement strategies
• Factors impacting recruitment of participant practices

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

AHRQ’s PBRN registry identified 102 PBRN directors. Six individuals were excluded from the sample. In total, 50% (54/96) of PBRN directors completed the CERA survey. Data was analyzed with SPSS+, Version 22.0. Analysis included descriptive statistics and chi square tests.

RESULTS:

• 76% of PBRNs surveyed were >5 years old; 80% had >50 clinician members; 77% had >20 practices.
• 61% of PBRNs had experience with conducting studies using technology-based patient engagement strategies.
• No differences were found in use of patient-facing technologies based on size or age of PBRN.
• 47% of PBRNs had access to patient portals in >50% of their practices.
• No differences were found in use of patient-facing technologies in PBRNs based on portal access.

DISCUSSION:

• Current use of technology-based patient engagement strategies for research is minimal in most PBRNs.
• Technology-based patient engagement strategies are most often used for administering risk assessments and decision aids.
• Diverse barriers to incorporating technology-based patient engagement strategies into practice were reported, with lack of IT support being the most frequent concern.
• Opportunities exist for enhanced use of patient portals to engage patients.
• Perceived concerns regarding patient privacy and patient safety were reported to be least likely to impact recruitment of participant practices.

NEXT STEPS:

Further study is needed to investigate best practices for implementing technology-based patient engagement strategies in practice-based research. PBRNs have an opportunity to inform more widespread adaptation of these technologies within clinical practice.

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