

Medicare Access and Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) and Depression Screening: A Quality Improvement Project

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Background

- MACRA was enacted by Congress in April 2015
- Approximately 4% of primary care patients are screened for depression.
- The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening for depression at the primary care level for all adults.

Objectives

- **Aim 1:** Advancing knowledge of primary care providers and staff in a small primary care setting on MACRA
- **Aim 2:** Increase the proportion of patients in the practice who receives the PHQ-9 depression screening

Methods/ Measures

Program Design

- Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) rapid cycle quality improvement project
- Provider and staff education and training on MACRA and depression screening

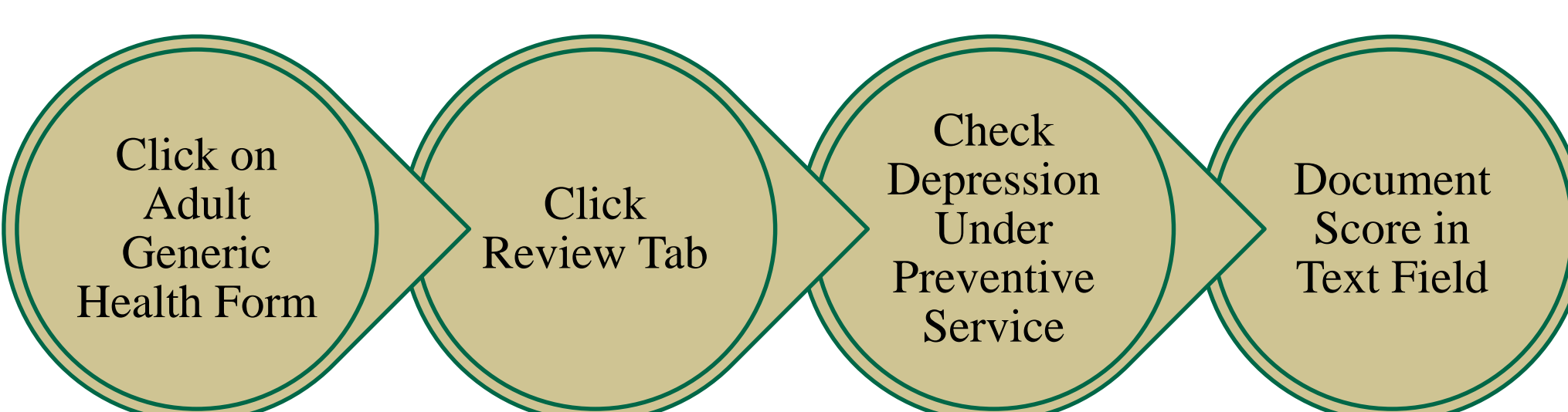
Setting

- Privately owned primary care practice with 6 providers serving adults on the west coast of Florida.

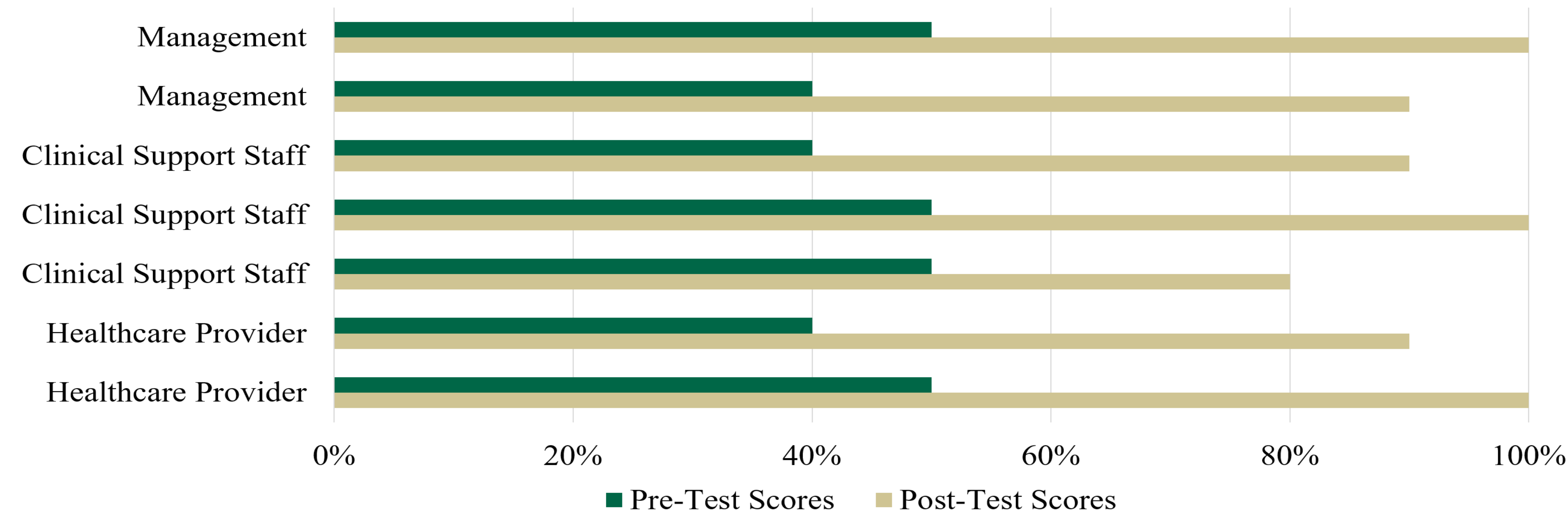
Measurement

- Electronic Health Records (EHR) analytics software capturing the number of patients screened for depression 30 days pre and post implementation of project
- A survey instrument created for this project by project coordinators was used to ascertain gains in knowledge

EHR Workflow Analysis



Phase 1 – Pre and Post Implementation Knowledge Gains



Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test

| Variable | N | M | SD | Minimum | Maximum | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|---------------------|---|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Pre-Test (Correct) | 7 | 0.46 | 0.05345 | 0.40 | 0.50 | -0.29 | -1.92 |
| Post-Test (Correct) | 7 | 0.93 | 0.07559 | 0.80 | 1.00 | -0.46 | -0.90 |

$V = 0.00, z = -2.53, p = .011$

| | N | Mean Ranks | Sums of Ranks |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Pre-Test Scores | 7 ^a | 4.00 | 28.00 |
| Post-Test Scores | 0 ^b | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Ties | 0 ^c | |
| | Total | 7 | |

a. Post-Test Score > Pre-Test Score b. Post-Test Score < Pre-Test Score c. Post-Test Score = Pre-Test Score

| Test Statistics ^a | Pre-Test Score-Post-Test Score |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Z | -2.530 ^b |
| Asymptotic Sig. (2-tailed) | 0.011 |

a. Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test b. Based on Negative Ranks

Phase 2 – Rate of Depression Screening Pre and Post Implementation

Chi-Square Test

| | Not Screened | Screened | Marginal Row Total |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Pre-Implementation | 791 (604.46) [57.57] | 9 (195.54) [177.96] | 800 |
| Post-Implementation | 396 (582.54) [59.74] | 375 (188.46) [184.65] | 771 |
| Marginal Column Totals | 1187 | 384 | 1571 |

The chi-square statistic is 479.9168. The p-value is < 0.00001. The result is significant at $p < 0.05$

Discussion

- **Key Strategies for Implementing MACRA in Small Practices**
 - Avoid delay, prepare for MACRA now
 - “Pick Your Pace”
 - Work as a team
 - Designate a “champion”
 - Learn and understand MACRA
 - Outline a strategy, plan comprehensively but implement incrementally
 - Identify and select high-performing Merit-Based Incentives Payment System (MIPS) measures that best fits the practice
 - Decide how to report
 - Check with EHR vendor and adopt a certified EHR
 - Document accurately in EHR
 - Pay attention to deadlines
 - Maintain focus on quality patient care
- **Implications for Practice**
 - Gains in depression screening rates were primarily increased by one provider
 - Proportion of patients screened were minimal depression (35%), no depression (29%), Mild depression (21%), Moderate depression (10%), Moderately Severe Depression (3%), and Severe depression (2%)

Limitations

- Small sample size for the single two-hour education and training session
- Implementation at a single practice site
- Limited participation by staff and provider due to natural disaster

Acknowledgements

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- We would also like to thank the healthcare providers and staff of at the practice location where the project was conducted.

References

- References available upon request
- IRB approval (#00031085)