Development and Implementation of an Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Team at a Heart Failure Clinic

Shannon DeLuca, MSN, CRNP; Erica Arnold, MSN, CNL; Dana Mitchell DNP, CRNP; Erin Clarkson, MSW, MPH; Illdiko Nyikos, MA; Vera Bittner, MD; Heidi Burkart, MEM; Lisle Hites, PhD; Connie White-Williams, PhD; Maria Shirey, PhD

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health

PURPOSE

The Heart Failure Clinic described herein utilizes an innovative, interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) model around transitional care coordination to reduce 30-day hospital readmissions in heart failure patients. Additionally, it reviews the initial six months challenges and rewards associated with an IPCP model and caring for a complex heart failure population.

OBJECTIVES

1. Establish nurse-managed heart failure center for underinsured and/or medically underserved population
2. Implement IPCP model around transitional care coordination to reduce 30-day hospital readmissions in heart failure patients
3. Integrate nursing and other health professions students into IPCP model to gain experience with team-based care and the healthcare needs of vulnerable populations
4. Implement a model in which health professionals become competent at IPCP
5. Achieve the Triple Aim to:
   - Improve the patient experience
   - Improve the health of population
   - Reduce per capita cost of health care

TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Monthly and annual surveys are administered to the IPCP team to assess the progress of team development and the implementation of the IPCP model. Preliminary results indicate that successes are beginning to emerge as the team matures, resulting in more efficient team communications inherent in the IPCP approach.

One of the most important ways our clinic assesses and improves its quality of care is asking patients what they think. Clinic patients fill out a satisfaction survey at each visit. The results indicate that our patients are highly satisfied with the care they receive.

PATIENT OUTCOMES

Over 6 months, 39% of patients* saw a decrease of 1-2 classes* of heart failure.

CHALLENGES

1. Finding resources to meet the needs of the patients
2. Balancing patient’s needs for support and empowerment vs. overstepping/acting for the patient
3. Referral consistency
4. New model of health care
5. Staffing the clinic with the right personnel


Efficient Team Communication

96% Patients felt that the care providers always listened to what they had to say

95% Patients felt that the care providers always treated them with respect

92% Patients were satisfied or very satisfied with their visit

Resource

Clinical Integration and Leverage of Resources to Meet Patient/Family Needs

Transitional Care Coordination

Across the Hospital, Clinic, Home, and Community

Interprofessional Team

Committed to Quality and Safe Passage

Heart Failure Underserved Population

Patient/Family Centered Care and Engagement

Exceptional Outcomes