



Electronic Medical Records in the World of IDD: Lemons Into Lemonade

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BACKGROUND

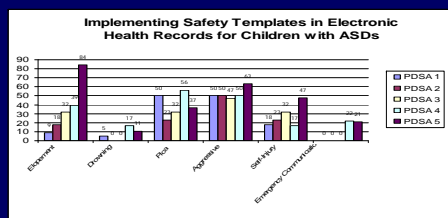
- The Affordable Care Act strongly encourages health providers to convert to Electronic Medical Records (EMRs), through fiscal incentives and penalties
- Providers recognize that the complexity and interdisciplinary aspects of serving people with IDD do not fit traditional “medical” models.
- People with IDD have high needs for care coordination :
 - across health disciplines
 - between health systems
 - between health and other service systems.



- UR Medicine serves a large population with IDD across its service region, in several hospitals and multiple community offices, and wants to support the Special Olympics “Healthy Communities” effort to reduce health disparities for all people with IDD.
- UR Medicine and other large health systems in New York’s Finger Lakes Region use Epic® EMR systems, potentially allowing easier sharing of information and tools
- Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities UCEDD and LEND have goals to reduce health disparities for people with IDD across the lifespan, through service, training, research, and advocacy.

SERVICE

Safety Templates: LEND trainees used the EMR as a tool to increase screening for safety risks in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in a multi-cycle QI project



Special Olympics Remote Access:

Providers at Special Olympics pre-participation screenings remotely accessed (via laptop, secure VPN, and iPhone “Personal Hotspot” capability) Rochester’s 2 major Epic® EMR systems to confirm diagnoses, medications, and other health issues, and to communicate with primary health providers, greatly enhancing the quality of screenings.



TRAINING

Point of Service Teaching LEND trainees worked with EMR “builders” to create a pop-up template for primary care physicians (Family Medicine and Internal Medicine/Pediatrics) serving patients with Down syndrome. An ongoing research study will evaluate this as a tool to increase provider knowledge of the special health needs of people with Down syndrome and other IDD conditions.



RESEARCH

Inpatient Length of Stay Study: As a year-out MPH research project, a LEND Public Health Fellow analyzed inpatient electronic records of individuals with IDD for length of stay against those of age and gender matched controls with the same admitting diagnosis. People with IDD had admissions an average of 1.5 days longer, even when matched for admission DRG codes and when extended stays at end of life were excluded. Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prophylaxis, restraint use, line days, bedsores, straight catheter use, restraint use, and increased Frequency of vital signs were associated with a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) longer LOS. Further analysis will investigate other possible contributors to this difference and cost effective interventions.



ADVOCACY

Spread the Word to End the Word: LEND trainees and members of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry Rochester Student Group ran two advocacy days for UR Medicine Hospitals and the main UR campus. Health care providers were shown how to change the Problem List in the electronic records over from “Mental Retardation” to “Intelligible Disability.” This has been reinforced in a Coding Tip by medical center leadership.



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- Since Electronic Medical Records are essentially complex databases, each element can be rendered searchable. This makes the EMR a powerful research tool.
- The advantages of updated problem lists and communication features of EMRs in facilitating coordination of care and improving information exchange among providers include clear updatable diagnostic information and alerts regarding individual needs for supports.



- The power of the EMR as a training tool is only just being explored. Further adaptations will allow providers to “step away” from the patient to look up treatments, medication side effects, and other aids to better care.
- As UR Medicine continues its effort to reduce health disparities for people with IDD in western NY State, collaboration and information sharing will be essential, and its EMR will be an invaluable tool.