

Abstract

Chlamydia trachomatis is the most common sexually transmitted bacterial infection worldwide (CDC, 2017, Newman et al., 2016) and can lead to a multiplicity of problems for patients, increased burden for clinics and emergency departments, and excessive costs to the healthcare system for treatment and hospital visits. This quality improvement project was developed to augment screening procedures in a nonprofit, community based outpatient clinic. This paper details a comprehensive plan for addressing patient knowledge deficits about chlamydia, examining antecedents to disease acquisition, providing evidence-based education, conveying care and compassion through provision of psychosocial support, and finally, restoring a sense of dignity and worth to patients. Disseminating evidence-based patient education regarding chlamydia and assessment via psychosocial counseling to those most at risk for chlamydia proved to be beneficial as evidenced by patient responses demonstrating advanced comprehension of risk factors. This innovative multidisciplinary approach augments delivery of care and proved invaluable in advancing patient knowledge.