

Abstract

The "Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)" was implemented to provide Medicare eligible patients recommended preventative screenings every 365 days free of cost. The rate of completion of AWV remains low nationally. The following Quality Improvement (QI) project was initiated to increase staff knowledge of Annual Wellness Visit (AWV), develop a Clinical Assessment Protocol (CAP), and increase the rate of AWV completion at one site. A total of N=10 staff members completed a knowledge test before and after exposure to an AWV training. A two sample t-test determined that the 22% increase from 62% to 84% was highly significant ($t=3.45$, $p=.010$). After designing and applying a CAP, a total of N=430 charts were audited for patients due 30 days prior and N=454, 30 days after distributing the CAP. A chi-square test determined that the AWV completion rate of 0% at baseline to 6.4% post implementation of the CAP was highly significant ($t=2.998$, $p=.017$). Finally, a trend analysis demonstrated that the rate of completion continued to increase weekly ($F=5.29$, $p=.048$), suggesting that change might be sustainable over time. Outcomes indicated that the intervention was successful with both increasing AWV knowledge among staff and increasing the overall AWV completion rates at this health care facility. The outcomes support evidence-based studies that conclude that educational training and utilization of standardized protocols improve delivery of quality health care. Findings carry significant implications for assisting this and similar clinical settings achieve universal coverage of seniors over 65 years of age by the end of 2020.

Keywords: Annual Wellness Visit (AWV), Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicare, standard protocol, knowledge, prevention, health screening guidelines

