

Meaningful Use and Treatment of Smoking in Federally-Qualified Health Centers

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This study examines the impact of implementation of Stage 1 MU program on the screening and treatment of smoking among adults using linked EHR from a network of community health centers (CHCs). Most CHC patients are uninsured or Medicaid recipients, have incomes below the FPL, and have disproportionately high rate of smoking compared to patients seen in private primary care clinics.

Potential Impact

This study provides timely data on the effectiveness of the MU implementation on improving rates of assessment and treatment of nicotine dependence in underserved populations, as well as examining changes in smoking over time. Given the amounts of resources invested in this EHR technology incentive program, it is critical to determine if these efforts result in measurable improvements in patient care, and ultimately, in patient health outcomes.



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Organizations Involved

- Dartmouth College
- Kaiser Permanente Northwest - Center for Health Research (CHR)
- Oregon Health & Science University