Effectiveness of Using an Electronic Health Record Clinical Reminder for Monitoring Medication Adverse Effects

Abstract

PROBLEM: Patient’s prescribed second-generation antipsychotic (SGA) medications are at an increased risk of comorbid illnesses when adverse effects are not monitored. Electronic Health Record clinical reminders have been documented as improving health screenings for conditions such as smoking and immunizations. There is very little documentation in the literature of clinical reminders significantly improving monitoring of medication adverse effects.

PURPOSE: To determine effectiveness of an electronic health record clinical reminder for monitoring SGA medication adverse effects in an outpatient veteran population and to determine the physician compliance level.

EBP QUESTIONS: Has there been a significant increase in monitoring the adverse effects of SGA medications after the implementation of a computerized clinical reminder? How often is the clinical reminder completed by physicians who prescribe an SGA medication?

METHODS: Causal comparative convenience samples of 90 electronic outpatient charts were chosen for this retrospective study after approval by both a Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Old Dominion University institutional review boards. Data collection was done cross-sectional to evaluate effectiveness of the reminder and to document physician compliance of the clinical reminder.

OUTCOMES: There was a significant improvement at a p level of .05 in monitoring the SGA medication adverse effects when the clinical reminder was done. Physicians were 39% compliant with the provider-initiated clinical reminder, which was not statistically significant.

SIGNIFICANCE: The study will provide initial data on using a medication-specific computerized clinical reminder for monitoring adverse effects, improving documentation, decreasing comorbid illness, increasing patient outcomes and satisfaction.