IMPLEMENTING A VIRTUAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY TUMOR BOARD FOR RURAL VETERANS

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PURPOSE

- To improve access to specialized comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation for cancer patients by implementing a multidisciplinary virtual tumor board (VTB) between an urban VA facility and one serving more rural veterans.
BACKGROUND

- Tumor boards are forums to discuss best treatment options (Gross, 1986)
- More likely to have comprehensive treatment (Pillay et al., 2016)
METHODS

- Implementation of a biweekly VTB for GI malignancies
- Interfacility consult to refer patients
- Referring provider will present case
- VTB recommendations will be entered in the shared EHR.
RESULTS

• Reimbursement- $387
• Distance – 950 miles
• Additional cost savings - $227/day (gsa.gov)
RESULTS

• “This went much better than I anticipated. I think this really has potential.”

• “Could we expand this to other services and cancer types? I would love to participate.”
IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

• Potential for full implementation
• Expansion to other sites
• Other tumor boards
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

About the VA heart of texas health care network. Retrieved from https://www.heartoftexas.va.gov/about/index.asp


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