IMPLEMENTATION OF SCREENING GUIDELINES FOR ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Essential Health Care Services Related to Anxiety and Mood Disorders in Women April 30, 2024

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IMPLEMENTATION PILOT PROJECT

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WOMEN'S PREVENTIVE SERVICES INITIATIVE (WPSI)

https://www.womenspreventivehealth.org/about-wpsi/

Coalition of national health professional organizations and patient advocates with expertise in women's health to continue the work of the National Academy of Medicine Committee to develop *Women's Preventive Services Guidelines* in 2011.

Reviews evidence, develops, and updates recommendations using methods similar to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) to fill gaps in recommendations.

Recommendations are reviewed by HRSA; if adopted, included for coverage under prevention services mandates of the Affordable Care Act.

Age 13 and older; inclusive definition of women; conditions specific to or different in women.



IMPLEMENTATION PILOT PROJECT

- Aim to improve implementation of WPSI/HRSA guidelines.
- Topics:
 - Screening for Anxiety
 - Screening for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)







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SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, AND IPV

Depression screening	Screen for depression including pregnant and postpartum women; refer for appropriate therapy (USPSTF).
Anxiety screening	Screen for anxiety in adolescents and adult women including pregnant and postpartum women; refer for appropriate therapy (WPSI).
IPV screening	Screen for intimate partner violence and provide or refer women who screen positive to ongoing support services (WPSI).

https://www.womenspreventivehealth.or g/recommendations/ https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce. org/uspstf/recommendation-topics



CONDITIONS ARE RELATED BUT OFTEN UNDETECTED

- Screening can identify specific conditions as well as undetected related conditions.
- Identification of one condition can help address another.





GOAL 1: CURRENT PRACTICES Research Findings

What are clinicians' current practices for screening for anxiety and IPV in the primary care outpatient setting?

- Screening practices and policies varied across clinics.
- Screening rates were low and not well captured in health records.
- Screening for depression was frequently performed and often used as a proxy for screening for anxiety which was not routinely done.
- Few protocols for referrals for anxiety and IPV.
- Clinicians and staff were often unaware of anxiety and IPV screening recommendations and ACA coverage.



GOAL 2: BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO SCREENING Research Findings

Facilitators

Both IPV and anxiety

- Leveraging existing screening practices
- Built-in EHR screening tools
- Universal screening of all adult populations

Anxiety

 Increasing prevalence in society increased awareness of the need to screen

Barriers

Both IPV and anxiety

- Screening fatigue
- No required health maintenance metric

Primarily IPV

- Documentation and reporting
- Highly sensitive topic and low prevalence in daily practice
- Follow-up and resources are inadequate



GOAL 3: CLINICIAN RESOURCES

What resources are needed to support screening?

- Development of clinical workflows and user guides that expand existing practices.
- Paired anxiety screening with depression screening to facilitate workflow based on clinical practices and feedback from interviews.
- Includes clinician resources to support screening, assessment, and billing.
- Links to educational resources, clinical practice guidelines, and toolkits.
- Screening resources organized by populations:
 - \circ Adolescents
 - Pregnant and postpartum
 - \circ Adults



When to screen: Screen women, ages 13 years and older including during pregnancy or postpartum, at least once a year. Offer a framing statement: "We are talking to all our patients about mood changes because they are common and can affect your health during [adolescence, pregnancy and after birth, all stages of adulthood] Ask screening questions: Refer to WPSI Depression & Anxiety User Guide for validated screening tools and their available Spanish translations for adolescents, pregnant and postpartum women, and adults. Follow up as needed SCREENING POSITIVE? YES NO Assess severity of symptoms Interview patient alone with open-ended probing questions. Refer to WPSI Depression & Anxiety User Guide for suicide risk Document negative assessment resource quides: screening results "You scored high on the screening tool for [depression; anxiety]. How are you feeling? How long have you felt this way?" "Do you feel like hurting yourself or ending Billing & coding your life? Have you felt like this in the past?" Refer to WPSI User Guide Document positive **RISK OF HARM?** screening results YES NO Facilitate referral to crisis mental Provide diagnosis, treatment, and health services referral Do not leave patient alone. Assess Offer mental health resources and acute mental health needs. Provide referrals for diagnosis and treatment escorted referral for patients at risk based on guidelines for depression for harming themselves or others.

and anxiety.

ANXIETY & DEPRESSION **SCREENING Clinical Workflow**

IPV SCREENING Clinical Workflow

Quick Reference Resources		
NATIONAL RESOURCES	LOCAL RESOURCES	
National Domestic Hotline: 1.800.799.SAFE(7233)	Local Domestic Hotline:	
Thehotline.org	Local Police:	
1.800.656.4673 Online.rainn.org	Local DV Advocate:	
Love is Respect (Teens): 1.866.331.8453	Local DV Shelter:	
1.866.331.8453 (TTY)	Info/Referral:	





National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233 Local Hotline: Local Resource Center:

QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW RESULTS Materials are Useful

Participants

- Had a positive perspective of the tools.
- Appreciated the framing statements.
- Felt tools were sufficient to perform screening.
- Appreciated the bilingual options.

Tools supported

- Assessing self-harm and conducting universal education for IPV.
- Screening for both anxiety and depression at the same time, while scoring and addressing the conditions distinctly.



SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS Overall

Considerations

- Clinics have limited capacity.
- Patients experience screening fatigue.
- EHR function is an important implementation facilitator.
- Clinics want to implement screening regardless of gender.
- Clinic context affects implementation.

Screening tools

- Information and the idea of choosing a tool were overwhelming.
- Additional prompts
 - Name of the screening tool the clinic has chosen to use.
 - Screening tool modality.
 - Role of the staff responsible for each step with consideration for level of training.



SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS IPV Screening

Mandatory reporting

- Add information about mandatory reporting.
- Prompts to inform patients about mandatory reporting guidelines.
- Training for clinicians to better understand their mandatory reporting status and how that influences IPV screening.

Private space

- More information about best practices for facilitating a private space.
- Framing statements to prompt patients into a private space.



SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS Anxiety & Depression Screening

Self-harm assessment

- Insert an additional self-harm specific workflow.
- Prompts for administering another assessment tool to measure self-harm severity.
- Prompts for warm hand-offs to either internal or external behavioral health.
- Regional or national resources for clinics without local resources.





SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS Billing, Coding, Documentation

Billing

- Add a table that indicates each billing code, what it is used for, and parameters on the code such as time requirements.
- Add the anxiety CPT diagnosis code and relevant Medicare codes to the existing code list.

Documenting

- Additional resources on:
 - Documentation best practices.
 - Follow-up if screening can't be completed.
 - When and how to follow-up or "try again" for incomplete screenings.
- For IPV, how to talk to patients about privacy of their chart notes and suggested practices when traditional documentation is not appropriate.



While primary care clinicians acknowledge the importance of screening women for anxiety and IPV in addition to depression:

 Lack of awareness of guidelines, screening methods, and insurance coverage.

SUMMARY

- Clinics have limited capacity to implement additional screening.
- Screening rates are low, vary in practice, and are not welldocumented.
- General lack of referral protocols for patients with positive screens.



- Implementation requires health system and policy approaches beyond individual clinicians and practices.
- More training and development are needed to
 - Establish clinic and health system screening procedures and workflows.
 - Improve skills and develop protocols to assure patient safety, mandatory reporting, assessing patients' self harm.
 - Provide resources for effective billing and documenting.
 - Create screening metrics to monitor progress and outcomes.



SUMMARY