

Increasing Alcohol Use Disorder Management In Primary Care For Women Veterans

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PROBLEM

Alcohol use disorder (AUD) is rising in women, accounting for approximately 43,000 deaths annually. Approximately 1 in 4 women who seek care through the Veteran’s Administration (VA) report AUD symptoms (Pugatch et al., 2021). Women Veterans with AUD are often referred by their primary care provider (PCP) to a VA substance abuse treatment program (SATP) instead of managing them in primary care.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- (1) Is there a relationship between personal and professional characteristics, referral patterns, attitudes/beliefs about AUD, and comfort level prescribing medications for AUD in primary care?
- (2) (2) Is there a difference in provider referral practices, attitudes/beliefs about AUD, and comfort level of prescribing medications for AUD following participation in a NP-led alcohol management program?

METHODS

This study will use a pre-experimental pretest-posttest design.

No control group or randomization.

Participants will complete a researcher-developed questionnaire which includes personal/professional characteristics and explores attitudes and beliefs, referral patterns, and provider comfort levels related to alcohol use disorder

OUTCOMES

This study anticipates :

PCP knowledge and comfortability in prescribing medications for AUD in a primary care setting will improve.

Increase prescription rates for AUD.

PURPOSE

This study aims to explore provider attitudes, beliefs, comfortability in prescribing medications, and referral patterns before and after participating in a nurse practitioner (NP) led education session.

PARTICIPANTS

Convenience sample of PCPs at the HVAMC who provide care for women Veterans and agree to participate.

Inclusion criteria are PCPs employed at the HVAMC who have women Veterans on their patient panel. This includes nurse practitioners (NPs), physician assistants (PAs), Doctor of Osteopathy (DOs), and Doctor of Medicine (MDs).

Exclusion criteria are specialists not working in the primary care setting and PCPs who only care for male patients.

INTERVENTION

NP-led educational session (lunch and learn) on AUD management in the primary care setting.

Study done in collaboration with the researcher, and a clinical pharmacy specialist.

Education on local/national statistics related to AUD, screening measures (AUDIT-C), medication management, and higher-level treatment options. The focus will be on available formulary medications, appropriate dosing/titration, side effects/adverse reactions, contraindications, and laboratory monitoring.

The study will use the VA’s clinical practice guidelines for the management of AUD.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Larger sample size.

Longer study timeframe.

Application generalized to other genders and non-Veteran population.

SETTING

Hampton Veterans Administration Medical Center (HVAMC) in Hampton, Virginia.

HVAMC is a 432-bed teaching hospital serving Veterans in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina (U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, n.d.), providing care to over 50,000 men and women Veterans annually (U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, n.d.)



REFERENCES

Available upon request

