Department of Family Medicine

Implementation of Technology-based Patient Engagement Strategies within Practice-Based Research Networks (Poster)

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BACKGROUND

- Technology for patient engagement (such as patient portals to transmit decision aids, texting to transmit blood glucose) is increasingly available; it is unclear how much is being incorporated into practice-based research

- Use of these strategies may promote patient-centered care and improve health-related outcomes

- PBRN directors have a unique vantage to provide insight into the use of technology within PBRNs.

OBJECTIVES:

- To explore availability and usage of technology-based patient engagement strategies in PBRNs
- To identify potential barriers and facilitators to implementation of patient-facing technologies in practice-based research

METHOD:

Data collected as part of omnibus Council of Academic Family Medicine Educational Research Alliance's (CERA) 2015 PBRN Director Survey

STUDY DESIGN:

An original 10-question survey was developed.

Questions addressed:

- Current use of technology-based patient engagement strategies
- Barriers to use of technology
- Factors impacting recruitment of participant practices

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

AHRQ's PBRN registry identified 102 PBRN directors. Six individuals were excluded from the sample. In total, 56% (54/96) of PBRN directors completed the CERA survey. Data was analyzed with SPSS+, Version 22.0. Analysis included descriptive statistics and chi square tests.

RESULTS

Figure 1: Percentage of PBRN's Studies that used Technology-Based Patient Engagement Strategies

Figure 2: Barriers to Incorporating Technology-Based Patient Engagement Strategies into Practice*

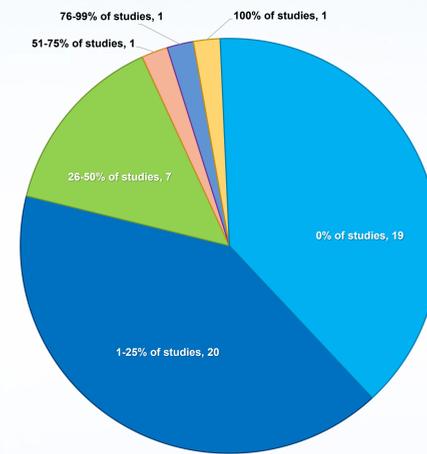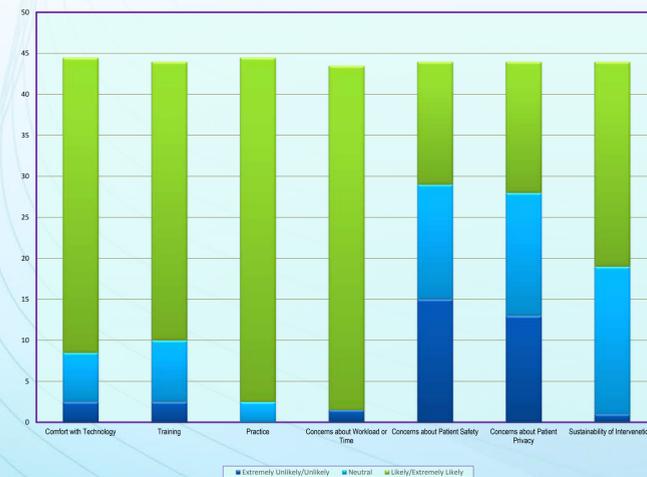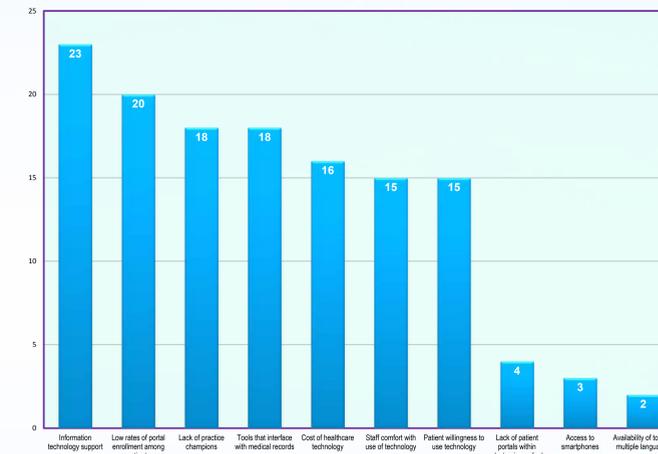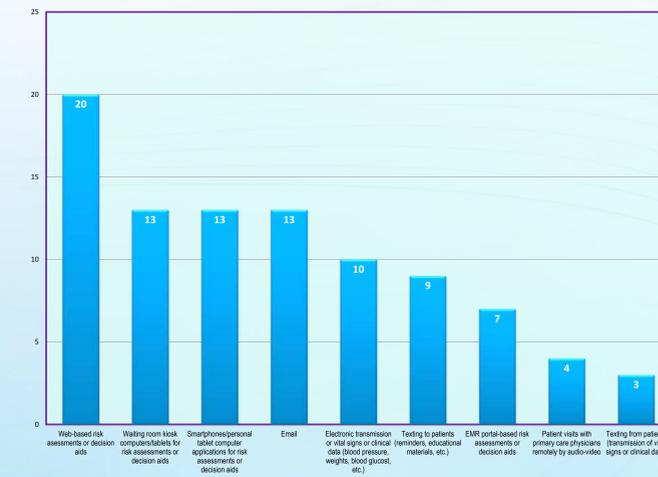* Respondents ranked top 3 barriers

Figure 3: Factors that may Affect Physician Participation in Studies including Technology-Based Patient Engagement Strategies

Figure 4: PBRN Use of Technology-Based Patient Engagement Strategies in the Past 5 Years*

* Results based upon responses from 39/54 PBRN directors reporting use of technology-based patient engagement strategies. PBRN directors identified all strategies used in the past five years.

RESULTS:

- 76% of PBRNs surveyed were >5 years old; 80% had >50 clinician members; 77% had >20 practices.

- 61% of PBRNs had experience with conducting studies using technology-based patient engagement strategies.

- No differences were found in use of patient-facing technologies based on size or scope of PBRN.

- 47% of PBRNs had access to patient portals in >50% of their practices.

- No differences were found in use of patient-facing technologies in PBRNs based on portal access.

DISCUSSION:

- Current use of technology-based patient engagement strategies for research is minimal in most PBRNs.

- Technology-based patient engagement strategies are most often used for administering risk assessments and decision aids.

- Diverse barriers to incorporating technology-based patient engagement strategies into practice were reported, with lack of IT support being the most frequent concern.

- Opportunities exist for enhanced use of patient portals to engage patients.

- Perceived concerns regarding patient privacy and patient safety were reported to be least likely to impact recruitment of participant practices.

NEXT STEPS:

Further study is needed to investigate best practices for implementing technology-based patient engagement strategies in practice-based research. PBRNs have an opportunity to inform more widespread adaptation of these technologies within clinical practice.

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