Top Ten Things To Know

CAD and the Quality Improvements Associated with Participation in the GWTG-CAD Program

1. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States.

2. The GWTG program is the largest hospital-based, national performance initiative that has shown to improve adherence to treatment guidelines over a 1 year period for participating hospitals.

3. The purpose of this research study was to evaluate whether the benefits of improved guideline adherence for patients hospitalized with CAD were sustained over time.

4. The database from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services was used to examine 6 performance measures and 1 composite score GWTG-CAD participating hospitals.

5. The differences in guideline adherence (n= 440, 439, and 429) for GWTG-CAD participating and (n=2,438, 2,268 and 2,140) non-participating hospitals were evaluated for 3 consecutive years.

6. GWTG-CAD hospitals demonstrated higher guideline adherence for 6 performance measures as compared to non-GWTG hospitals. The largest differences existed for (1) aspirin at arrival (2.3%, 2.1%, and 1.6%, p< 0.05), (2) aspirin at discharge (3.4%, 2.2%, and 2.3%, p<0.05), (3) β-blocker at arrival (3.4%, 2.9%, and 2.6%, p<0.05), and (4) β-blocker at discharge (2.8%, 1.8%, 1.5%, p<0.05).

7. The GWTG-CAD hospital status was independently associated with better adherence for 4 of the 6 measures (the exceptions were ACE-I for LVSD and smoking cessation counseling).

8. GWTG-CAD hospitals maintained superior guideline adherence for all 6 performance measures than non-GWTG-CAD hospitals over the entire 3-year period (adjusted differences 1.8%, 1.6%, and 1.4%).

9. Hospitals participating in GWTG-CAD program had modestly higher overall acute cardiac care and secondary prevention guideline adherence relative to non-GWTG-CAD hospitals.

10. The small increase in guideline adherence of 1-3% by GWTG-CAD hospitals translates to 12,000-36,000 more patients each year receiving each of the evidence-based treatments.

Ying X. et al, for the GWTG Steering Committee and Hospitals. Are quality improvements associated with the Get With the Guidelines-Coronary Artery Disease (GWTG-CAD) program sustained over time? A longitudinal comparison of GWTG-CAD hospitals versus non–GWTG-CAD hospitals American Heart Journal February 2010 (Vol. 159, Issue 2, Pages 207-214)
http://www.ahjonline.com/article/PIIS0002870309008746/abstract

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