DRAFT September 17, 2024

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**Sexual orientation and gender identity information in patient intake forms in chiropractic program teaching clinics: a cross-sectional analysis**

(((Target journal: TBA)))

ABSTRACT

Objective  The purpose of this study is to investigate current collection practices of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) information in training clinics for chiropractic degree-granting programs in English-speaking countries.

Methods  We will collect patient intake forms from DCP clinics and compare the contents with the accepted standard for United States based electronic health records (EHR) as mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Stage 3 Meaningful Use.

Results  The data will be displayed in a table and compared against current standards and other health professions programs

Conclusion: To be written once results are complete.

Keywords:

Introduction

Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data collection has become the accepted standard for United States based electronic health records (EHR) as mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Stage 3 Meaningful Use requirements for vendors and developers of compliant EHR systems. The final rule for requirements of collection fields specific to SOGI was adopted in October 2015 by CMS and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.5 The first year for collection of SOGI demographics in US health centers was 2016 with full implementation in certified EHR due in 2018 with the capacity for recording, modification, and accessibility. An analysis of first year data indicated less than 35% completion with up to 65% of SOGI identifiers missing on more than 25 million patient files.6 Collection and analysis of SOGI data is critical to understanding population health needs of sexual minorities. SOGI data are currently assessed in at least eight national health surveys and national data systems according to Healthy People 2020 where LGBT health is a new health topic.7

Training and implementation related to health care professions for the collection of SOGI data necessitated industry specific and public health articles. These topics have included emergency medicine,1 care of veterans,2 patient opinions about being asked these questions,3 and provider experiences.4 However, at this time, there are few scholarly publications in the chiropractic literature on sexual minorities and none are specific to the education of chiropractors on the topic of SOGI data collection. Therefore, the project’s purpose is to investigate current collection practices of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) demographics in training clinics for chiropractic programs.

Methods

This study is an evaluation of publicly available documents. No personal data will be collected or included in this study.  We will access web-based, publicly available, downloadable intake forms for DCP clinics where interns provide chiropractic services to the general public. For those DCP clinics that do not have forms available online, we will contact the clinic to request a blank copy of their form. If possible, we will try to collect forms from similar clinics from other health professions in the nearby area. Once the blank patient intake forms are collected from the US DCPs, they will be scored using a rubric that includes the standards described by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for SOGI collection for Stage 3 Meaningful Use compliance.

We will access web-based, publicly available, downloadable intake forms for DCP clinics where interns provide chiropractic services to the general public. For those DCP clinics that do not have forms available online, we will contact the clinic to request a blank copy of their form. Once the blank forms have been collected, data from the forms will be entered into an Excel spreadsheet for each of the categories.

The data will be analyzed with descriptive statistics. We will identify trends in DCP clinic collection of SOGI demographic questions on paper intake forms in addition to specific categorical (sex/sexual orientation/gender identity) utilization and application. Information will be compared to expectations from the CMS Stage 3 Meaningful Use requirements. Based upon our findings, this study will provide recommendations for how to evaluate and improve forms for DCP clinics as well as those providers in clinical practice.

References

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6.            Grasso C, Goldhammer H, Funk D, et al. Required Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Reporting by US Health Centers: First-Year Data. Am J Public Health. 2019;109(8):1111-1118.

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Consider including an appendix or supplemental file that has resources and guidelines.