

Unmoderated Posters Miscellaneous and Other

UP-80

Telemedicine for Rural Nursing Home Urology Care: Hospital Readmission Rates and Cost Savings

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Introduction and Objectives: Telemedicine provides nursing home patients access to specialty care without requiring costly travel. Partnering with a rural nursing home, we provide urologic services via telemedicine. Patients meet with urologists via video conference. An on-site nurse assists with visits, allowing the urologist to work directly with the facility medical team. Those with complex problems unable to be managed remotely are seen in the office for further care.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed data from our telemedicine program. We quantified hospital readmission rates, the facility's Case Mix Index (CMI), and the cost of transport for in-office visits. Data from the 20 months our telemedicine program were in use and the 20 months immediately preceding it were reviewed. This study was approved by an IRB at University at Buffalo.

Results: The monthly average of hospital readmissions for pre-telemedicine and during telemedicine was 3.65 and 3.41 per 1000 census days respectively. This represents a 6.58% decrease in hospital readmissions. During the telemedicine period, the facility admitted increasingly complex patients. The average CMI in the pre-telemedicine and during telemedicine period was 1.39 and 1.51 respectively.

During the telemedicine period, our urology practice utilized telemedicine for 151 unique patients with 539 separate visits. We calculated the average cost of the transportation of these patients. The 539 visits not requiring transport represents a savings of \$163,839.83 over 20 months with an average savings of \$303.97 per telemedicine interaction.

Conclusions: Telemedicine allows rural nursing homes to treat increasingly complicated patients while simultaneously decreasing hospital readmission rates. It is unclear whether other factors contributed to the decrease in readmissions. Telemedicine provides a cost savings by eliminating costly and inconvenient patient travel. Additional study examining the role of other providers and other health economic outcomes is indicated.

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Twitter Utility in Research Proceedings (TURP): Analyzing Twitter Activity at the Canadian and American Urological Association 2012 Annual Meetings

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Introduction: The Canadian Urological Association (CUA) has been active on Twitter since June 2012, with over 135 followers as of January 2013. In contrast, The American Urological Association (AUA) has been active on Twitter since 2009, with 2250 followers. Both established a hashtag prior to their 2012 Annual Meetings: The AUA used #uro12 and the CUA used #cua2012. We analyzed the content and authorship of tweets generated during the 2012 annual meetings of the AUA and the CUA.

Methods: Publicly available tweets containing the hashtag #uro12 between May 20 and 23, 2012 were collected from an online archive. Hashtags containing #cua2012 were also compiled during June 24-26, 2012. Tweets were categorized by author type based on user profiles. Tweets were classified based on their content as informative (communicating data or discussion based research presented at the conference) or uninformative (advertisements, status updates, or opinions unrelated to presented data).

Results: Four individuals composed at least one tweet using #cua2012, totaling 58 tweets. Of these, three were urologists and one was the CUA's official twitter account. 62% of tweets were classified as "informative" tweets. By comparison, 133 individuals composed 754 tweets using #uro12. 28% of tweets were classified as being informative. A specific abstract number was cited in 14 (2%) of unique tweets. The most active users were biotechnology analysts, who generated 30% of total tweets to a median following of 316 users. Urologists and other physicians generated 145 (19%) tweets to a median of 58.5 followers, of which 48 tweets (23% of informative) were informative. The largest contribution of informative tweets was made by news agencies (27% of informative) and biotechnology analysts (26%).

Conclusions: Twitter activity at the 2012 CUA Meeting was light, but largely informative. The increased Twitter activity at the 2012 AUA Meeting was more heterogeneous in origin, content and utility.