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Title

Implementing a Family Medicine Order Panel Library to Improve EMR Efficiency and Workflow

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Background

Electronic medical record (EMR) inefficiencies are a major driver of clinician burnout. Clinical decision tools (CDTs), such as order panels, which are predefined clinically related orders that bundle commonly needed diagnostic tests for specific conditions, can streamline care, reduce cognitive burden and improve workflow efficiency.

Objective

To develop and implement a comprehensive and standardized order panel library accessible to primary care clinicians

Data and Methods

Twenty-two high-yield primary care order panels were developed using updated clinical guidelines and integrated into the EMR. Pre- and post-implementation surveys and three months of EMR data were used to evaluate provider utilization, satisfaction, workflow impact, and barriers over time.

Results

Pre-intervention surveys showed at baseline low order panel utilization, with 29% reporting never using any order panels and 34% reporting infrequent use. After implementation, usage increased substantially (38% to 77%), with 242 total uses over 3 months. Residents used panels more than faculty (59% vs 41%). New barriers that emerged included difficulty remembering to use or locating panels in the EMR and reluctance to add steps to existing workflows. The most used order panels were STI screening, fatigue, and anemia.

Conclusions

A standardized primary care order panel library was effective in reducing cognitive burden and improving provider workflow and satisfaction.