Impact of a Quality Improvement and Education Initiative on ‘Appropriate’ Use of Anticoagulant Therapy in Women with Atrial Fibrillation

Pfizer Final Report
Submitted by:
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June 30, 2015
Project Aim and Objectives

• **AIM:** To reduce the risk of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation by developing and implementing a computerized decision support tool for individual patient-level decision-making about oral anticoagulant therapy.

• **Objectives:**
  1. To develop an algorithm for assessing optimal anticoagulant therapy for patients with atrial fibrillation based to minimize their risk of stroke.
  2. Create an automated **Atrial Fibrillation Decision Support Tool (AFDST)** to provide primary care providers with current and optimal anticoagulant therapy for patients at the point of care.
  3. To assess the impact of the AFDST and provider education on patient care decisions related to antithrombotic therapy.
Major Outcomes

- Of 1,876 adults with non-valvular AF the AFDST found discordant (less than optimal) therapy in 931 (49.6%).
- 240 of 931 discordant pts. were seen during the study period (25.8%).
  - Overall discordant treatment dropped from 63.33% to 58.53% during a one year period (p=.02)
  - Among 90 patients who were seen in follow-up visits, discordant treatment dropped from 96.7% to 80.0% (p=.0001)
Provider Practice Change

• Almost 70% of the providers reviewed the AFDST report prior to seeing their AF patient.
• Two-thirds of those providers found it helpful in the care of patients
• Over half of the providers discussed anticoagulation treatment decisions with their patients regardless of whether they had received or reviewed the AFDST report.
Conclusions and Dissemination

• Providers prefer to have support tools integrated into the EMR for ease of use.
• Many primary care providers defer anticoagulation therapy decisions to specialists.
• Patient preferences weigh heavily on providers’ decisions regarding therapy and therapy changes.
• This project resulted (to-date) in 2 professional publications, 3 national presentations, and 9 invited presentations.