

Abstract

A Su Salud Cervical Cancer Screening Program: Cost effectiveness and reported patient experiences

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Introduction: A Su Salud Cervical Cancer Prevention Program was a three-year bilingual patient navigation program by University Health System of San Antonio, providing Pap tests for medically underserved women. This study evaluated program cost-effectiveness and participant perceptions. **Methods:** Women aged 18 to 64, who were uninsured or enrolled in University Health System's CareLink financial assistance program, and resided in Bexar County were eligible to participate between 2012 and 2015 (n=3777). Program data were collected for costs, population characteristics, and program efficacy. Cost-effectiveness was evaluated using a validated microsimulation model. The natural progression of cervical cancer and impact of screening were simulated. Additionally, in 2015, six focus groups were conducted (n=25) with recipients of program services. Focus groups were audio-recorded and transcribed. Using an iterative process of content analysis, transcripts were coded for themes and sub-themes using NVivo 10 software. **Results:** The program was cost-effective relative to no intervention, costing \$748 per quality-adjusted life year (QALY) gained among participants. Of focus group participants, 88% (n=22) were Hispanic. Focus group content analysis revealed overarching themes related to program participation: knowledge, personal beliefs, motivation, and emotional response. Cross-cutting sub-themes influencing patients' experiences included lack of knowledge about cervical cancer, cultural and generational norms, family medical history, preferences for female providers, and satisfaction working with a patient navigator. **Conclusions:** Cervical cancer prevention programs targeting low-income, Hispanic women may be cost-effective. Such programs should leverage the role of patient navigators to educate patients and ameliorate apprehensions rooted in patient culture.

Conduct evaluation related to programs, research, and other areas of practice

