Improving the Compliance of the Annual Foot Examination in Diabetic Patients at Centromed

Velen Tat

July 31st, 2014
Introduction

- American Diabetes Association recommends that health care providers perform a complete foot exam on diabetics at least once a year.
- The foot examination consists of checking for foot ulcers, performing the Semmes Weinstein monofilament testing, and checking pedal pulses (dorsalis pedis).
- CMS Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Measure #163
Introduction: Annual Foot Exam helps prevent diabetic complications of ulcers, infections and amputations

- Early detection of the loss of protective sensation and implementation of strategies to prevent ulceration will reduce the rates of limb threatening complications. Source: NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE (Vol 331 No 13, September 29 1994, Page 854)

- Research indicates that the Semmes Weinstein monofilament is an inexpensive, reliable, valid, and easy to use clinical indicator for identifying patients who are at risk for developing foot ulcers and subsequent amputations. Those patients. PHYSICAL THERAPY (Vol 76 No 1, January 1996, Page 71)
How many diabetics does Centromed see?

Patients with at least one encounter(s) 10/2013 to 07/2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active Patients Dx with Diabetes Mellitus</th>
<th>Person Num</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12651</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Active Patient Pop</td>
<td>65645</td>
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</tbody>
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Prct 19.27%

Diabetic Pts 19.27%

NonDiabetic Pts
Methodology: Randomization by Podiatry Visit

Total Diabetic Patients (12,651)

- Seen by Podiatry (935)
  - Assume 100% compliance of annual foot examination from podiatry

- Not seen by Podiatry (11,716)
  - Randomly examine 288 charts for annual foot examination documentation that includes skin, sensory (monofilament) and pulses exams
Results

- Seen by Podiatry (935)
- Not seen by Podiatry (11,716)

Assume 100% compliance of annual diabetic foot exam

- Of the 11,716, randomly sample N = 288. All 288 charts have no documentation of the diabetic foot exams in every office visit from 10/2013 to 07/2014.
- 261 charts indicates a 95% confidence level with 6 confidence interval
- $\frac{935}{12,651} = 7.4\%$ have documented diabetic foot examination (if the assumption that podiatry performs annual foot exam is true)
Discussion: A closer look at the data

On Target
• Patient 146667 Foot ulcer → podiatry referral

Almost but not good enough
• Skin: normal; Vascular: dorsalis pedis normal
• Patient 213384 left leg ulcer: pulses and skin normal

Missed Opportunity
• Patient 106561 dx neuropathy 8/16/13
• Patient 115165 dx neuropathy 9/4/13
• Patient 184997 dx neuropathy 5/13
• Patient 225122 right toe amputation and later right bk amputation 3 year ago d/t DM complications
Recommendations: Podiatry is not the silver bullet

- Increasing podiatry referrals can’t solve the issue, especially with a single podiatrist on staff
- Podiatry referrals does guarantee a foot examination
  - Nextgen glitch: Unable to obtain referrals information
  - Future Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr. Uribe Patient Encounters</th>
<th>10/13</th>
<th>11/13</th>
<th>12/13</th>
<th>01/14</th>
<th>02/14</th>
<th>03/14</th>
<th>04/15</th>
<th>05/14</th>
<th>06/14</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total patient encounters 3,192 between 10/13 to 06/14
Recommendations: Reinitiate MAs/Nursing to Perform Annual Diabetic Foot Exam

- According to Dr. N. Parra, MAs/nursing have been trained to perform the monofilament exam.
- Prior to having podiatry services, MAs/nursing performed the monofilament exam.
- Provide reeducation training and services.
- Skin: check for ulcers, callous.
- Sensory: Semmes Weinstein monofilament.
- Pulses: dorsalis pedis. If unable to find, ask provider to examine.
Conclusion: SWOT

HELPFUL

S

• Large diabetic population
• Great providers and support staff in MAs/nurses

HARMFUL

W

• Continued poor compliance of annual foot exam

SWOT Analysis

O

• Ability to meet and exceed ADA guidelines of at least one annual diabetic exam
• Cost savings from decreased amputations

T

• 2015 PQRS will decrease reimbursement rates
• Potential risk management issue as amputations could be prevented
Conclusion

- **Centromed** needs to increase the compliance of annual diabetic foot exam to increase PQRS Measure #163 value for reimbursement
- Increasing compliance leads to better patient outcomes
Acknowledgements

- Ms. Jackie Medrano and Mr. John Rodriguez
- Dr. Uribe, Dr. Reyna, Dr. N. Parra, Dr. E. Parra
- Ms. Malley, Ms. Valenzuela
- Funding: GE-NMF PCLP
- and staff