

Title: Implementation-Focused Evaluation of a Cross-Specialty Curricular Intervention to Support Residents to Address Social Need.

Abstract

Background: While evidence supporting social care integration is increasingly robust, less is known about how to prepare healthcare professionals to deliver social care in primary care settings. At Montefiore medical center, we have implemented a curricular framework to support residents in four primary care facing disciplines -Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Pediatrics- to learn to address social needs utilizing referral to clinic-based Community Health Workers (CHWs).

Objective: To qualitatively assess resident perceptions of the education, guidance and support they receive to develop competency in addressing social needs.

Methods: In December 2023, we recruited 8 residents (2 per discipline) to submit written reflections on barriers and facilitators to addressing social need. We then developed an interview guide informed by inductive analysis of the reflections and the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) framework. We recruited residents to 7 focus groups; 3 have been conducted to date; the remaining 4 to be completed in the next 4 weeks. We will employ a framework-guided rapid analysis, first summarizing transcripts across key domains of interest, then identify emergent themes within each domain using a data matrix (based on CFIR).

Results: In written reflections, barriers to addressing social need include unfamiliarity with local resources "it can feel overwhelming to... filter through resources and find what is best for a patient's particular situation" (R6) and communication "the process often breaks down when the CHW tries to contact the patient multiple times over phone and the caretaker never answers." (R3). Facilitators include "Discussions with CHWs and social work on how to reach them. Lectures discussing reasons to send CHW referrals" (R2). Resident comfort with addressing social needs varied by discipline.

Conclusion: This implementation-focused evaluation will support refinement of our cross-specialty curricular intervention and work flows to optimize the likelihood that residents in all disciplines develop competency in addressing social needs.