A Company-Wide Initiative to Improve Screening for Vision Impairment
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Background
- Tremendous growth of America's elderly population
- Vision impairment prevalence increases with age
- Impairments often unnoticed until vision is screened
- Adults expect declining vision with aging
- Impaired vision negatively impacts occupational performance
- Vision impairments must be identified prior to intervention to improve occupational performance
- Occupational Therapists (OT) should screen every client's vision

Rationale
Number of vision screenings performed by OTs will increase

Objectives
- >1 out of 6 point increase in knowledge of vision impairment & confidence in screening (6 questions; 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree)
- 40% of clients will undergo vision screening
- Identify & resolve barriers to vision screening (4 questions)

Methods
- Literature review to identify:
  - Aspects of vision to be screened
  - Valid & reliable screening tools
  - Inexpensive screening tools options
- Developed & Presented a series of 3 workshops
- Recruitment:
  - Emails sent to all company OTs
  - Verbal requests at start of each workshop
- Ethical Approval:
  - Obtained through company and university IRB
  - Informed consent process completed
- Workshop design:
  - Based on principles of adult learning
  - Knowledge translation theories applied
  - Participants motivated to learn
  - Lecture only not effective driver of change

Session Content
- Session 1 Lecture
  - Age related vision impairment
  - Conditions to be screened
  - Standardized tools and low cost options
- Session 2 Hands-on Practice
  - MN Read
  - ETDRS
  - Amsler Grid
  - Peripheral Vision
  - Mars Contrast Sensitivity
  - VF-14 Self Report
- Session 3 Discussion
  - Case Study Discussion
  - Reflective Discussion
  - Resources for:
    - Physician referral sources
    - Screening tools at each site
    - Mentors at each facility

Outcomes
- Knowledge and Confidence Questionnaire Before and After Workshops
- Screens Completed in 2 Weeks (n=9)
- Barriers to Completing Screens (n=9)

Conclusions
- Summary:
  Comprehensive educational initiative can improve OT staff's self-perception of knowledge and confidence in focus area
- Adult Learning Principles:
  - Multi component interventions impact outcomes
  - Tailored intervention can drive behavior change
  - Reflective practice helps change participants perspective
- Participant Satisfaction with Workshop:
  - Vision impairment screenings help provide better patient care
  - Felt improved ability to complete vision impairment screen
  - Satisfied with teaching methods
- Most Beneficial Within the Workshop:
  - Tangible resources
  - Hands on practice
  - Presence of mentor
- Barriers to Vision Screening:
  - Limited knowledge of process and tools are barriers

Limitations
- Small sample size completing questionnaires (9) compared to all participants (25)
- Number of screens unchanged before and after education. Potential reasons:
  - Lack of time
  - 2/9 respondents hand therapists
  - Mentor unavailable

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