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 ↑ 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
  - 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 & Confidence Questionnaire before and after workshops
- Number of screens unchanged before and after education. Potential reasons:
  - Lack of time
  - 2/9 respondents hand therapists
  - Mentor unavailable

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)

Further information
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