

Developing a consensus-based platform for improved detection and management of cognitive impairment in primary care

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INTRODUCTION

- Early and timely recognition of cognitive decline shows clear benefits
- Yet, identification of dementia in at risk patients mostly happens at a time of crisis or hospitalization or late in disease¹
- The reasons for this delay are complex²
- Despite national attention to address dementia, recognition and management of dementia in primary care remains challenging³

OBJECTIVE

To provide primary care physicians with a consensus-based, effective and practical platform of currently existing tools and evidence to identify, assess, diagnose, and effectively manage older adults with or at risk for cognitive decline and dementia.

METHODS

- Recruited ten family physicians with high engagement in cognitive issues
- Mixed methods approach including sorting and ranking exercises and a focus group with domain-based discussion
- Combined feedback from panelists will be used to design the platform and create the content for the toolkit

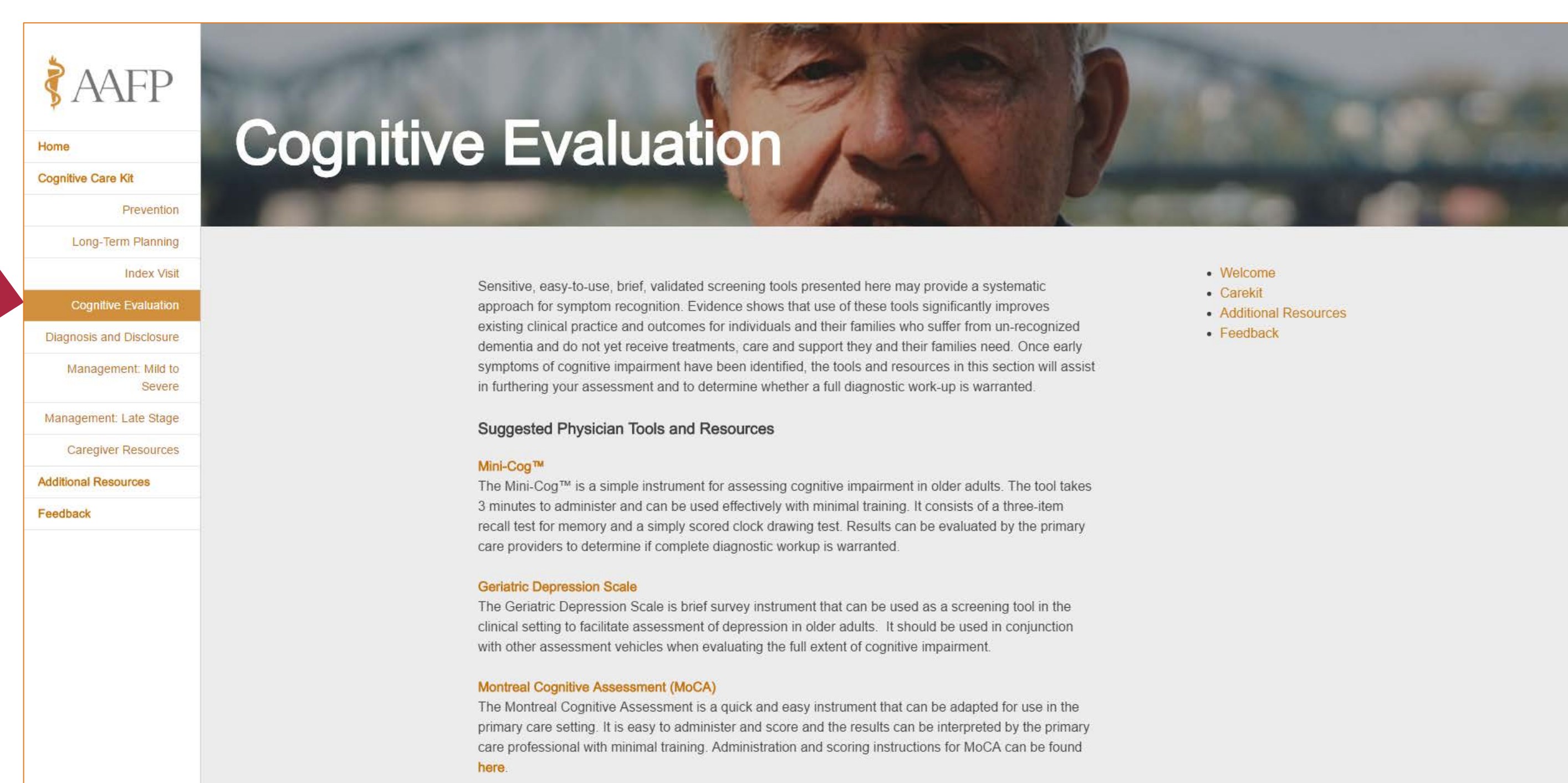
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RESULTS

www.aafp.org/cognitive-care/



THEMES FROM PANELIST FEEDBACK

- Panelists identified and prioritized tools and resources included in toolkit
- Simple layout and navigation; intuitive
- Comprehensive, covering all stages and needs
 - Recommend the top resources, but also keep additional resources as an option for variety amongst practitioners
 - Includes resources for patients, families and caregivers
- Digital platform with the option to print materials

DISCUSSION

- Cognitive impairment exists as an area of high interest for family physicians
- Interests resulted in clear expectations for a toolkit: both simple and comprehensive
- The resulting website delivered on panel instructions to be truly consensus based and practical in primary care
- The identified gaps in existing resources provides opportunity for future work

CONCLUSION

Development and availability of a physician-informed toolkit will initiate a greater awareness and ability to detect cognitive impairment at an earlier stage in disease progression among primary care physicians and improve health care delivery related to cognitive function.

NEXT STEPS

- Review feedback from user survey and comments
- Analyze usage through Google Analytics
- Promote toolkit to AAFP members through web, email, newsletter, chapter relations, and social media
- Future studies to address gaps in resources, necessary enhancements, and toolkit implementation

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