Designing a consensus-driven accessible toolkit for managing cognitive health in primary care settings

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INTRODUCTION

• Early and timely recognition of cognitive decline shows clear benefits
• Detection and management tools for cognitive impairment do exist, however, a set of comprehensive resources tailored to the needs of primary care are not packaged for streamlined implementation
• Development and dissemination of a consensus based toolkit for primary care is needed for better identification and management of dementia in primary care settings before patients experience crisis or hospitalization

METHODS

• AAFP National Research Network members were invited to participate via email
• Ten physicians were chosen of twenty-nine candidates based on their diverse training, practice, and geographical setting.
• Toolkit construction was driven by the Delphi method of pooling feedback from iterative review of materials and questionnaires.
• Moderated group discussion was used to gain consensus on the content, delivery platform, and practice implementation for the toolkit.

FINDINGS

https://www.aafp.org/cognitive-care

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IMPLICATIONS FOR D&I

• The creation of a best practices consensus-based toolkit provides opportunity for primary care physicians to engage patients in cognitive health early in their care and potentially improve healthcare delivery related to cognitive function.
• Themes from this expert panel and the resulting toolkit can serve as a model framework for developing an acceptable and accessible package of tools for a diverse set of future health care needs.

NEXT STEPS

• Review feedback from user survey and comments
• Analyze feedback 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