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

Natalia Loskutova MD, PhD1 Emily Bullard MPH1, William R. Venable III MBA, MPA1, Craig Smail MA, MSc1, Eric Vidoni, PT, PhD2

1AAFP National Research Network, 2University of Kansas Medical Center, Dept. of Neurology

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

RESULTS

aafpcognitivecarekit.info

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

We would like to thank our expert panelists for their contributions to this project: Jessica J. Burkett MD, Ramona Chube MD, Elizabeth Glazier MD, Ashkan Javaheri MD, Julius F. Metts MD, Kristin M. Nebel DO, Daniel G. Orr MD, Matthew L. Rios MD, Vicki J. Roberts MD, Rosa I. Vizcarra MD.

The AAFP Cognitive Care Kit has been developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians in collaboration with Eli Lilly and Company.