Title: Improving Preventive Care by Use of Health Maintenance Tables

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Background: Preventive measures, such as vaccinations and age- and gender-appropriate cancer screening, can reduce disease-specific morbidity and mortality. Despite well-established recommendations from major medical organizations for routine preventive measures, these services are often underused. Effective interventions to improve rates of preventive measures are critically needed. Primary care providers (PCPs) can play a critical role in utilization of appropriate preventive measures. To enhance efficacy of PCPs counseling, we created a tool referred to as the health maintenance table (HMT) for use in our electronic medical record (EPIC) at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

Hypothesis: The use of HMT in PCP documentation is associated with higher rates of preventive care services.

Methods: The study has been approved by the UF Institutional Review Board to perform a retrospective review of medical charts for patients who visited the UF Internal Medicine clinic at Medical Plaza and extract information about (a) whether HMT was included in the clinical encounter documentation, (b) patient’s age, (c) patient’s gender, and (d) whether patient has had various recommended preventive measures. The aim of the study is to determine the difference in the rates of appropriate use of preventive measures in HMT uses compared to non-HMT users.

Role of Medical Student: After consultation with the faculty mentor, the MSRP student will identify a research question (or questions) of interest to explore and assist with chart review, data analysis, literature review, and preparation of at least one first-authored abstract and manuscript. Students may continue their collaboration throughout medical school.