Breast Cancer Screening Rates of Uninsured Patients at South Main Clinic pre/post direct UCCP Referrals

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I. Introduction

Previous studies have indicated that under or uninsured women, such as many patients at South Main Clinic are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer at later stages, negatively impacting their quality of life and survival. To improve mammogram screening rates in the uninsured and underinsured population of South Salt Lake, the Utah Cancer Control Program has partnered with South Main Clinic to provide life-saving cancer screenings through a direct referral process. This area was considered a high-priority due to extremely low rates of cancer screening, high uninsured rates, and high rates of poverty.

II. Methods

This was a retrospective study using data gathered between November 2018-January 2021. Inclusion/exclusion criteria are outlined in figure 1. Data was gathered from Epic and included gender, age, insurance status, mammogram order date, and mammogram completion date if applicable. The outcome of interest was mammogram completion status (complete, incomplete, unknown). Mammogram completion rates were measured by calculating the percentage of completed mammograms for each group. Chi-square tests of independence were used to determine the impact of:
1) insurance status
2) direct referral implementation or insurance status
3) COVID-19 pandemic

Significance was set at 95% (p<0.05). All data was compiled and analyzed in excel. Figures were created in excel and Adobe Illustrator/Photoshop.

III. Results

Completion rates ranged from 68%-100% (table 1). There was no statistically significant change in mammogram completion rates between insured patients before and after direct referral (COVID-19 control). These results are summarized in table 2 and figure 2.

IV. Discussion/Conclusions

It was discovered that the Covid-19 pandemic did not influence mammogram screening rates at South Main Clinic, which although surprising, made the data easier to interpret. Since there was no difference between insured and uninsured patients and their mammogram screening completion, both populations should be further investigated to assess and understand potential differences outside of the implementation of direct referrals as examined in this research.

Further investigation is warranted to assess these limitations and other potential barriers influencing the mammogram screening completion of the insured and uninsured populations at South Main Clinic.