

SEARCH I: (Screening, Evaluating and Assessing Rate CHanges of diagnosing respiratory conditions in primary care): A prospective cluster randomized study

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals

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OBJECTIVES:

1. To determine diagnostic patterns of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in primary care provider and to determine whether the use of screening tools change the rate of new diagnoses.
2. To determine the feasibility of using non-UK physicians as “sub-investigators” in this project.

METHODS:

Primary care practices were recruited in one of two ways:

- 1) Personalized faxes were sent to physicians in the Kentucky Ambulatory network (KAN)
- 2) A notice was placed in the batch fax that goes out weekly to all physicians in “The Physician’s Network” (TPN)

Interested physicians had to complete a screening form to ensure they were eligible.

- 5 interested practices recruited via KAN
- 10 interested practices recruited via TPN

All participating physicians from each participating practice (up to 3 per practice) had to be listed as “Sub-Investigators” on the Institutional Review Board (IRB) documentation and trained. Physicians, practices, and patients are being compensated for their participation in this project.

DESIGN:

Practices were randomized into one of three study arms.

1. Arm 1 is designed to determine the impact of the screening tool set consisting of the screening tool COPD-PS followed by the COPD-6 for those subjects with a score of ≥ 5 on the COPD-PS
2. Arm 2 will determine the impact of the screening tool COPD-PS;
3. Arm 3 is the control arm chosen to reflect a real-world practice situation and involves no screening tool assessment and follows usual care. The participating sites are aware of the fact that there are three arms in the study but are blinded to the details of the other two arms.

55 to 70 patients were recruited from each site

Patients completed a brief questionnaire.

Patients’ medical diagnoses and medication lists were extracted from their charts by research personnel.

Research staff returned to each practice eight weeks after the final patient is recruited to extract additional information from the chart.

PARTICIPATING PHYSICIANS:

Participating Physicians and Practices

Dr. Roy Fulkerson (Leitchfield, KY)
Dr. Ravi Gill (Louisville, KY)
Dr. Jamie George (Lexington, KY)
Dr. Steven Green (Lancaster, KY)
Dr. Salem Hanna (Whitesburg, KY)
Dr. Rick Hempel, Dr. Ginny Gottschalk, Dr. Rebecca Chatham (Danville, KY)
Dr. Paul McLaughlin (Mt. Sterling, KY)
Dr. Brett Oliver, Dr. Ivan Morrin, Dr. Brian Smith (Georgetown, KY)
Dr. Henry Preston (Georgetown, KY)
Dr. Lovie Stallworth (Middlesboro, KY)
Dr. Roy Varghese (Hyden, KY)
Dr. Juanita Hughes, Dr. Brett Muha, Dr. Michael Raichel (Hazard, KY)
Dr. Glenn Womack (Flemingsburg, KY)
Dr. John Stewart (Lexington, KY)

PROGRESS:

A total of 866 patients were recruited from 14 sites.

Patient recruitment ended in July, 2011 and follow-up ended in September, 2011

RESULTS:

At present, the data is being analyzed and results are not available at this time.