

Improving Annual Retinopathy Screening Rates for Patients with Diabetes in UIM Residents Clinic Internal Medicine Residency Program

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BACKGROUND

- Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of impaired vision with an estimated 4.2 million adults affected in the United States.
- A vast majority of patients who develop diabetic retinopathy have no symptoms until later in the disease course during which time there is a limited number of effective treatments.
- Earlier treatment can reduce the rate of disease progression and ultimately preserve vision.
- 20-40% of diabetic patients have evidence of retinopathy five years after their initial diabetes diagnosis.

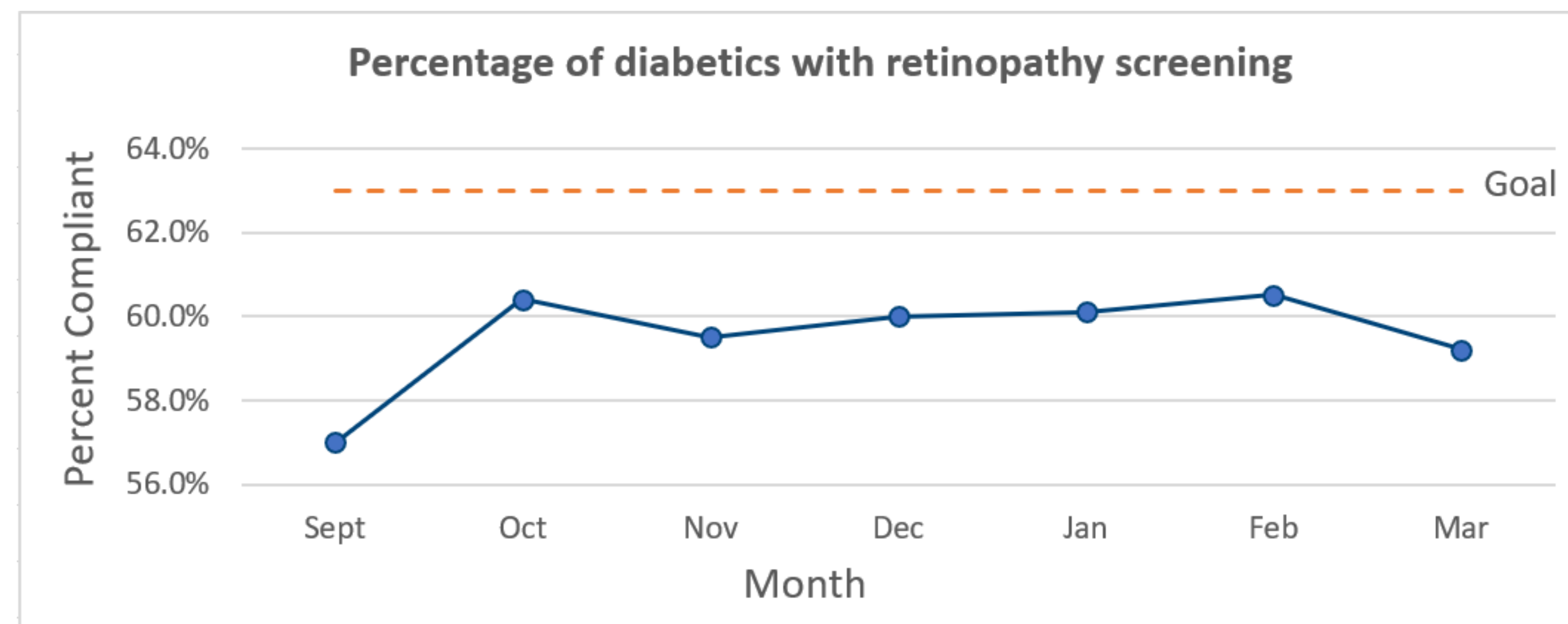
AIM STATEMENT

Increase the percentage of diabetics with completed retinopathy screening by 6% (from 57% to 63%) over the next 6 months.

METHODS/INTERVENTION

- Increase utilization of in-clinic telehealth retinal camera:
- Improve workflows surrounding in-clinic retinal scanner
 - Education on physician ordering of telehealth screening
 - In clinic “how to” fliers accessible for review
 - Increase resident, attending, and ancillary staff education of project and existing screener
 - Formal presentation to staff
 - Morning report refreshers on process directed at residents
 - Staff driven protocol for ordering ophthalmology referral vs in-clinic retinal scanner based on best practice advisories (BPAs)

RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

A predominantly educational intervention to increase utilization of the in-clinic diabetic telehealth screening machine did not increase the proportion of patients with a completed annual diabetic eye exam in a resident-run clinic.

BARRIERS:

- Staffing turn-over and limited number of ancillary staff trained on how to use the retinal camera
- Ongoing maintenance for the retinal camera (e.g. lens smudge degraded quality of report)
- Lack of a close-looped process to request and submit diabetic retinopathy screening completed outside MUSC

NEXT STEPS

- Increase number of staff trained to operate UIM retinal camera
- Develop close-looped process to request and enter outside records
- Educate physicians on importance and process to enter retinopathy screening completed outside MUSC

Month	% of diabetics with retinopathy screening
September	57%
October	60.4%
November	59.5%
December	60%
January	60.1%
February	60.5%