

Prevention of respiratory diseases

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Effectiveness of Care Coordination in Patients with Chronic Respiratory Diseases

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Coordination of care effectively prevents exacerbations and reduces the number of hospitalizations and emergency visits and the mortality rate in patients with chronic respiratory diseases. The purpose of this study was to determine the clinical effectiveness of care coordination in patients with chronic respiratory diseases within ambulatory healthcare, and its effect on the level of healthcare services as an indicator of direct medical costs. We conducted a representative study in ambulatory care on 553 patients with chronic respiratory diseases. A retrospective health record survey using an online database was applied. The number of cigarettes smoked per day ($p = 0.018$), breathing rate per minute ($p < 0.001$), heart rate ($p < 0.001$), pulse oximetry results ($p = 0.013$), FVC ($p < 0.001$), FEV1 ($p = 0.038$), and FEV1%FVC ($p < 0.001$) all improved after implementing the coordinated healthcare structure. In the same time, increases were seen in the average values of diagnostic tests ($p < 0.001$), number of visits to the pulmonary outpatient clinic ($p < 0.001$), referrals to other outpatient clinics ($p < 0.003$), and referrals to the hospital ($p < 0.001$). Even over a three-year period, care coordination did affect the clinical status of patients with chronic respiratory diseases.