ACCURE: Accountability for Cancer Care through Undoing Racism and Equity

Boosting Cancer Treatment Completion of Black Patients at a Cancer Center in NC Using ACCURE Nurse Navigators

Fatima Guerrab, Crystal Dixon, Antionette Moore, Claire Morse, Amanda Kote, Alexandra Lightfoot, Linda Robertson, Beth Smith, and Eugenia Eng

March 9, 2018
ACCURE Study
(5 R01 CA150980-04)

- To enhance racial equity in the quality and completion of cancer treatment for Black and White patients with stages 1 and 2 breast and lung cancer at two cancer centers.
  - Cone Health System Cancer Center in Greensboro, NC
  - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA
- Through a longitudinal study design, test the ACCURE system change intervention.
Rationale for the ACCURE Study

- Black patients undergo surgery and other treatments for cancer less often than similar White patients.

- Even when Black patients start chemotherapy, they finish therapy less often than White patients.

- As a result, cancer death rates for Black patients are higher.
ACCURE was designed by GHDC

GHDC’s Mission:
- To establish structures and processes that respond to, empower, and facilitate communities in defining and resolving issues related to disparities in health
ACCURE Intervention

**Transparency Components**

- **Retrospective** analysis, by race, of EHR data from 2007-2011

- Automated **Real-Time** Registry with **warnings** for missed appointments and unachieved milestones

- Automated **prospective** analysis, by race, of EHR data

- **Power analysis** of cancer care system for “pressure points”

**Accountability Components**

- **ACCURE Navigator** specially trained in exploring and responding to patients social and belief-specific barriers, and using ACCURE’s Real-time Registry

- Site-specific **Clinical Feedback** Reports, according to race and co-morbidity status, delivered by ACCURE Physician Champion to clinicians

- **Healthcare Equity Education & Training** for all cancer staff and clinicians
Methods
Assessing the Nurse Navigator Component

Assessing accountability and transparency

Nurse Navigator Notes (NNN):
- Describe the interactions between the ACCURE Navigator and patient

Reviewed over # 2,100 NNN over 4 years
Qualitative Analysis Approach

1. Reviewed notes & developed codebook
2. Coded notes
3. Discussed coded text; formed consensus
4. Entered agreed codes into Atlas.ti; generated code reports
5. Reviewed code reports to identify themes
Results
Major Barriers Identified

- Scheduling
- Family Hardship
- Managing Treatment Pain & Symptoms
- Financial Hardship
“I followed up with patient regarding call to request prescription for a breast prosthesis. Patient reports that a prescription was called in by Dr. X’s office. She expressed continued concerns about her financial situation and past due rent. **Patient asked for assistance to apply for employment and I encouraged her to come see me so that I can assist her with submitting applications.** Patient denied any other questions or concerns at this time. I encouraged her to call me for any needs.”
Treatment Completion

Cancer Care Treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Treatment Complete (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before ACCURE</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Participants</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After ACCURE Participants</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Black
- White
Findings from the Nurse Navigator Notes have the potential to influence cancer care policies.
Recommendations

- Integrating a specially trained nurse navigator to advocate for systems change according to experiences of patients.

- Navigators can do the following:
  - Identify and address barriers in the system before a break in care occurs.
  - Complete ongoing trainings on implicit bias and institutional racism.
  - Realize not only working with a patient but a patient who has a family.
Acknowledgements

ACCURE Research Team
- Dr. Eng, Co-Principal Investigator
- Dr. Lightfoot, Process Evaluator
- Amanda Kote, Graduate Research Assistant

Greensboro Health Disparities Collaborative
- Antionette Moore
- Crystal Dixon
- Claire Morse

Partners Training Program
- Dr. Romocki, NCCU Program Director
- Dr. Jolly, Former NCCU Program Director
- Ms. Cooper, UNC Program Manager
Contact Information:
Fatima Guerrab, Cancer Prevention Research Fellow
North Carolina Central University
NCCU-UNC Lineberger Partnership in Cancer Research
U54 CA156735-06
fguerrab@eagles.nccu.edu