

## Improving Cancer Screening Rates

*Evidence-based interventions (EBIs)* are strategies that are proven to work. The following interventions improve the quality of cancer screening and increase the number of people screened.

UCCP provides free quality improvement technical assistance with the implementation of EBIs in your healthcare setting by working with our trained Health System Specialist. The process begins with an assessment of your system including the collection of clinic baseline cancer screening data. The data collected from the assessment will allow our staff to identify gaps, recommend interventions and create process maps to ensure success with improving cancer screening rates in your clinic. Funding up to \$4,500 may be available for qualifying clinics.

The following EBIs include actions designed to reach patients and those designed to reach health care providers:

### Client-Oriented Interventions

#### **Client (patient) reminders**

This EBI is a message advising a patient that he or she is due for a cancer screening test. Patient reminders can be written messages (letter, postcard, e-mail, or text) or a telephone call made by a person or an automated service. The goal is to prompt patients to schedule an appointment for screening.

Actions - interventions and supportive activities:

- Offer to schedule cancer screenings for a patient during a clinic visit
- Contact patients to schedule screenings
- Send reminders about appointments and tests
- Provide support to help patients overcome barriers and prepare for tests

#### **Reducing structural barriers**

This EBI is designed to lessen or eliminate non-economic obstacles that make it difficult for people to access cancer screening. Reducing structural barriers increases access to cancer screening. Examples include:

- Modifying hours of service to meet client needs
- Offering services in alternative or non-clinical settings such as mobile mammography vans at worksites or in residential communities
- Eliminating or simplifying administrative procedures and other obstacles; for example, offering scheduling assistance, patient navigation, transportation, dependent care, translation services, or decreasing the number of clinic visits

Actions - interventions and supportive activities:

- Reduce paperwork
- Help patients schedule appointments

- Offer screening at more locations
- Expand clinic and screening hours
- Provide transportation
- Provide translation services
- Provide child care

### **Other client-oriented interventions**

Other interventions include the use of small media (like videos, brochures, or newsletters) and one-on-one or group education to motivate people to get screened. Health care systems can also give vouchers, reimburse costs, or reduce co-pays to remove economic barriers for patients.

## **Provider-Oriented Interventions**

### **Provider reminders**

This EBI informs health care providers that a patient is due or overdue for a cancer screening test, either during or just before a scheduled encounter. Provider reminders help ensure that patients due for cancer screening receive a screening referral or recommendation.

Actions - interventions and supportive activities:

- Put stickers or notations on the medical charts of patients or program electronic health records to send alerts to providers
- Every day, print a list of patients who are due for cancer screening

### **Provider assessment and feedback**

This EBI assesses providers' performance in delivering or offering cancer screening to clients and presents providers with the results of this assessment. The goal of provider assessment and feedback is to motivate providers to increase cancer screening recommendations to patients.

Actions - interventions and supportive activities:

- Track screening numbers for clinics and individual providers
- Review clinic policies and practices
- Tell providers how many of their patients are screened and receive follow-up care

**To receive free EBI quality improvement assistance to improve cancer screening rates in your clinic, contact UCCP and ask to speak to our Health System Specialist.**

## **Reference**

<https://www.cdc.gov/screenoutcancer/ebi-planning-guides/index.htm>