

Screening Adult Primary Care Patients With Type 2 Diabetes Medication Access Barriers

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INTRODUCTION

Topic

- Social determinant of health (SDOH) are conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age [2]
- Medication access is a social determinant of health [1]
- 1 in 4 Americans report one or more barriers accessing medication [3] including transportation, limited English proficiency, health literacy, living and environmental circumstances [2]
- Increased recognition of the importance of identifying patients with SDOH improve health and address persistent inequities [1]

Problem

- Barriers to medication access negatively impact patient health
- No formal screening in the clinic for barriers to medication access

Team

- Doctoral student; office manager; receptionist; medical assistants; physician

Aim

- To increase regular screening among type 2 diabetes patients for barriers to medication access, from zero to 50% by two in a primary care practice

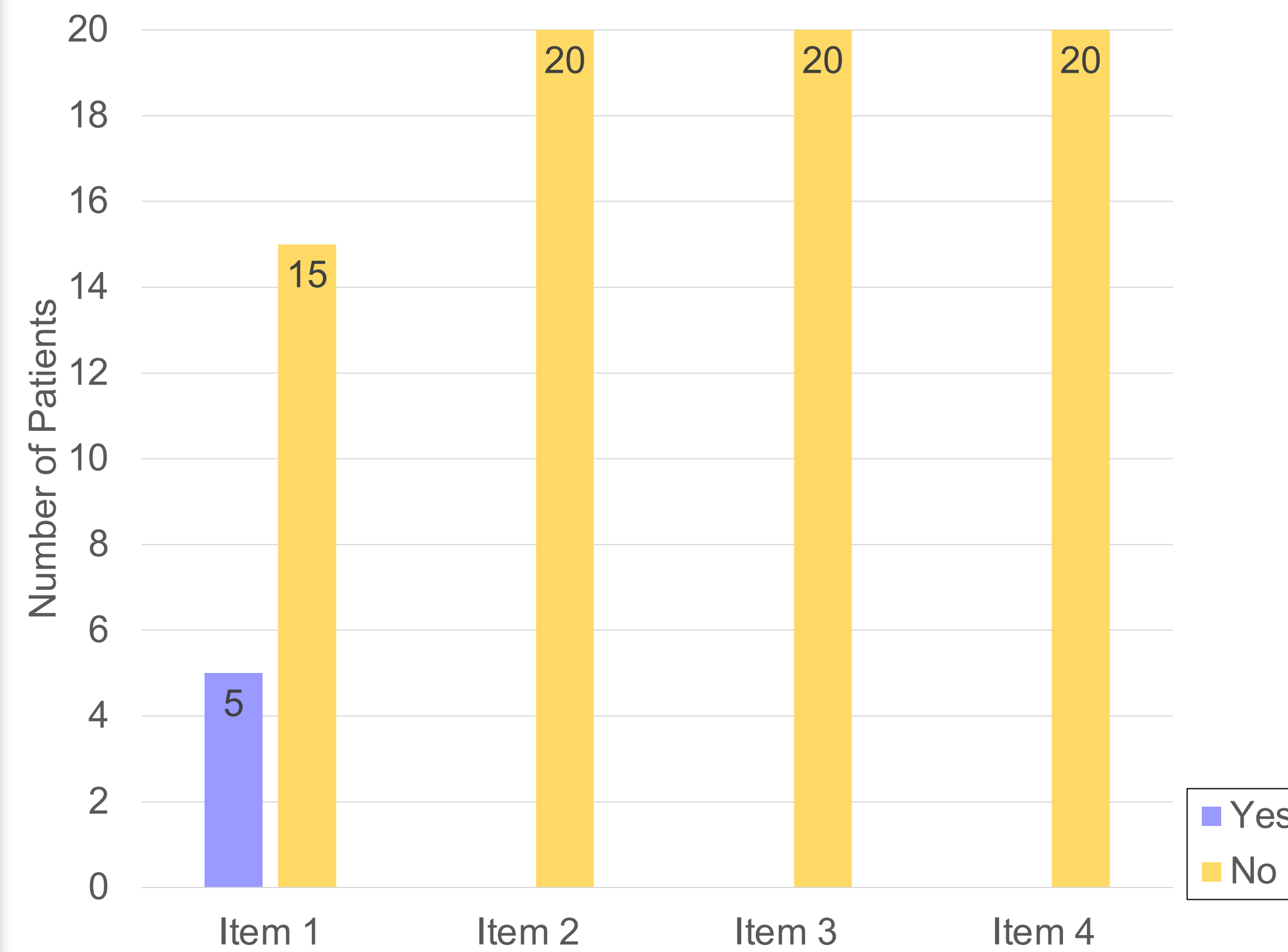
METHODS

Type 2 diabetes patients given 5 question screening tool for medication barriers at intake. Medical assistant charts results. Physician determines if medication assistance is necessary or if current medication should be altered.

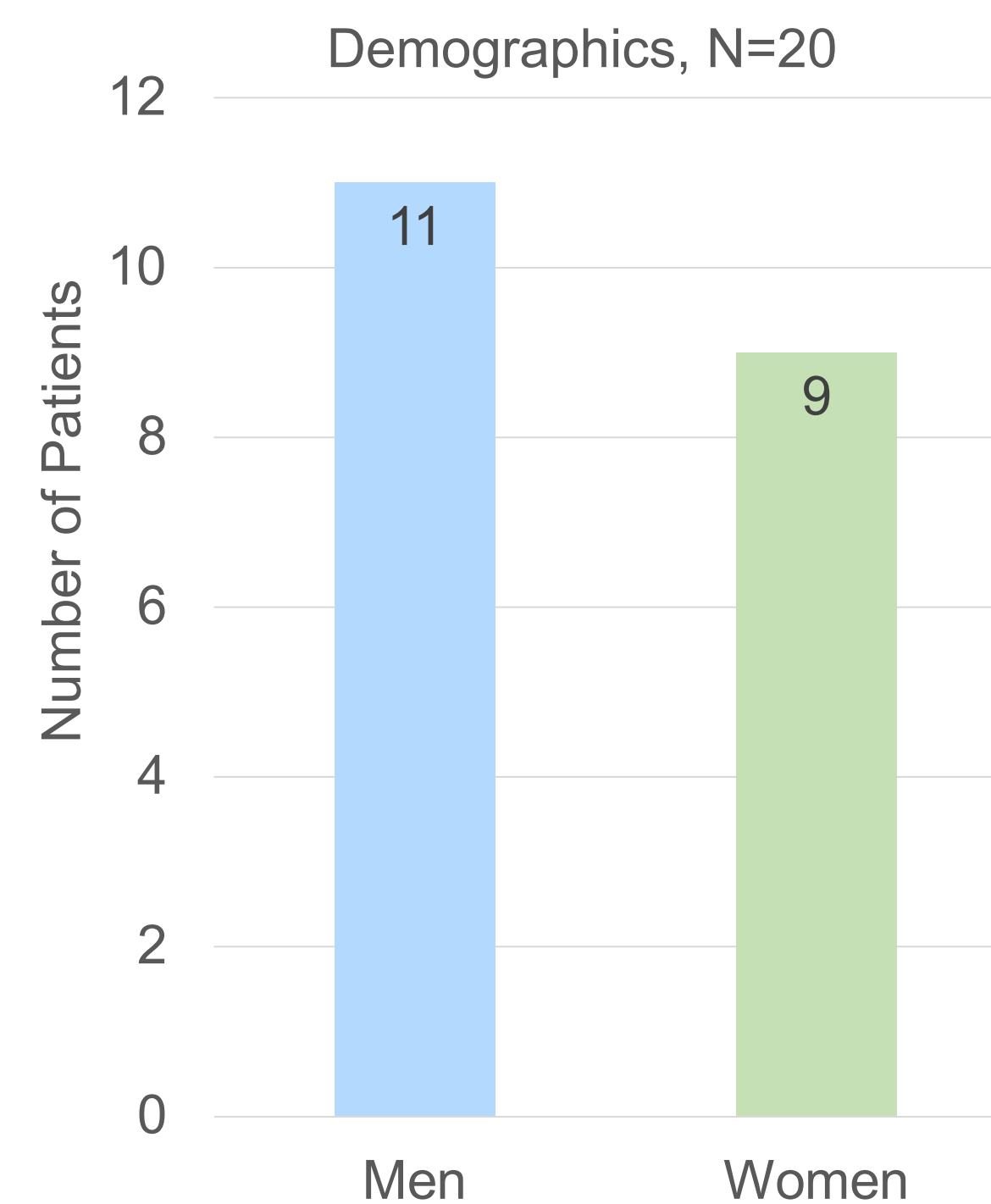
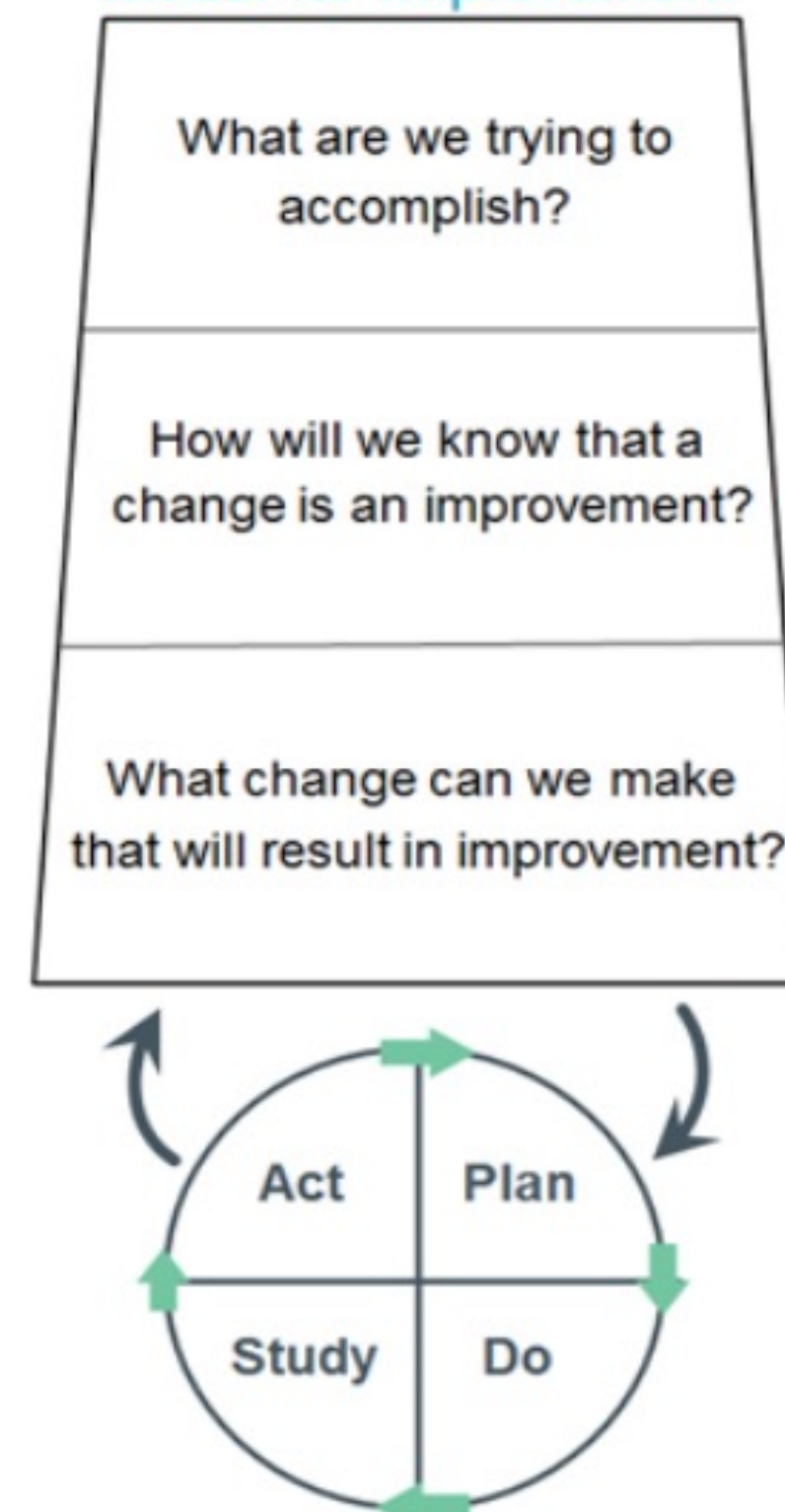
PDSA Cycle

- Plan: Identify evidence-based medication access screening tool and type 2 diabetes patients
- Do: Implement change/collect data: Receptionist administer screening, medical assistant collect and document results, physician provide resource or alter medication regimen if screen positive.
- Study: Analyze data, compare to hypothesis, explore takeaways
- Act: adopt, abandon, or adapt change; repeat cycle

Number of Adult Primary Care Patients with Type 2 Diabetes That Report Medication Access Barriers



Model for Improvement



RESULTS

- 20 participants screened (type 2 diabetes adult receiving care from Dr. Isam Hawatmeh MD primary care clinic; 11 male; 9 female. Age range 49-88 years; mean 70.3)
- Item 1 (I am currently having issues paying for one or more of my diabetes medications)
 - 5 participants (25%) reported “yes”
 - 15 participants (75%) reported “no”
- 20 participants (100%) reported “No” to
 - Item 2 (I am currently having issues with transportation to pick up one or more of my diabetes medication)
 - Item 3 (I am currently having issues physically taking one or more of my diabetes medication)
 - Item 4 (I am currently having issues with storing one or more of my diabetes medication)

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- All patients who reported issues were receiving assistance.
- The practice can identify patients with barriers and provide them with assistance.
- Established relationships may influence reporting of barriers and affected results.
- Screening tool may be best used for:
 - new patients
 - new diagnoses with T2DM, or
 - new medications.
- Survey more patients to determine if transportation, physical capability, and storage are non-issues for this population.
- Future cycles should include insurance status to primarily focus on those without Medicare.
- Consider implementation w/ other diagnoses - hypertension, hyperlipidemia.

REFERENCES

