

HST.921 Project Proposal

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| Company Name | Center for Clinical Computing, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center |
| Primary Contact | Steven Locke, MD Senior Research Scientist |
| Specialty area of interest | Clinical computing, primary care, and behavioral medicine |
| Project title/proposal | Web-based multimedia for the primary care treatment of depression |
| Brief description of project | <p>Researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center are studying PatientSite, BIDMC's Web-based EPR that allows patients secure access to their personal health information and to exchange emails with their PCPs. Patients will complete an interactive health history from home over the Web. The history includes a screen for depression. Using an RCT, the research team will study the impact on the upcoming doctor-patient encounter of having the results of the history in time for the scheduled office visit. The project, Cybermedicine for the Patient and Physician, is supported by the National Library of Medicine (Warner Slack, PI) and Dr. Locke is a co-investigator.</p> <p>The proposed HST.921 project will piggy-back onto this study to test whether providing a digitized educational video about depression over the Web to patients with positive depression screens leads to more effective treatment for depression. The intervention group will be shown the Time Life Medical video on depression at the time of the screening. The control group will receive care as usual.</p> <p>The student team on this project will design the intervention for use on PatientSite and the clinical trial used to determine its clinical and cost effectiveness. This could include consideration of the impact on medical cost offset savings from effective medical treatment. The output from the project would be a final report that could serve as the basis of an NIMH or AHRQ grant application.</p> |
| Rationale/significance | <p>Depression is the most common medical condition seen in primary care, yet only one out of three patients with depression is diagnosed, and among those, fewer than one in four are adequately treated. This is especially tragic because depression is a painful condition that is as lethal as pneumonia, as disabling as heart disease, as costly as diabetes, yet easily diagnosed and treated. Furthermore, in</p> |

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| | <p>addition to the direct costs of depression, it is associated with poorer medical outcomes among those with comorbid chronic medical conditions. A major barrier to successful treatment of depression is limited understanding of the medical basis of depression among patients and inadequate communication between physicians and patients about the treatment options, the importance of continuing treatment, and how to manage adverse events and side effects that may lead to premature discontinuation of pharmacotherapy.</p> |
| Target Audience | <p>primary care patients and physicians enrolled in the PatientSite Web-based EPR study at BIDMC</p> |
| Goals/Objectives | <p>design an intervention and clinical trial that will test whether multimedia patient education about depression will lead to improvements in care</p> |
| Comments or suggestion for the proposed method of implementation | |
| Other | <p>Dr. Warner Slack, PI on the NLM study, will be a consultant and advisor to the student team</p> |