

Importance given to preventive care in family medicine programs

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Objective

To document the perceptions of graduating family physicians regarding the importance given to preventive care by their preceptors.

Results

Perceptions of graduating family physicians regarding the importance most of their preceptors gave to various dimensions of preventive care.

	Perceived importance		
	A lot %	Some %	Little / None %
Patient counselling			
Smokers	79	20	1
Heavy drinkers	68	31	2
Patients with risk behaviors for STI	63	31	6
Sedentary patients	39	54	7
Patients with poor dietary habits	35	54	11
Screening			
Confirm last Pap test	80	20	0
Confirm last mammography (women 50-69 yrs)	79	20	1
Discuss colorectal cancer screening (patients > 50 yrs)	66	30	4
Identify patients with depression	35	49	16
Health protection			
Report notifiable diseases to public health authorities	69	20	3
Identify contacts for STI tracing	65	25	10
Ensure annual influenza vaccination in targeted groups	29	49	22
Ensure hand-washing between patients	16	37	48

According to graduating family physicians surveyed :

Patient Counselling

Most preceptors gave a lot of importance to counselling smokers (79%), heavy drinkers (68%) and patients with risk behaviors for STIs (63%).

Less importance was given to counselling sedentary patients and those with poor dietary habits.

Screening

Screening for cancers (cervical, breast and colorectal) was perceived to be highly valued by preceptors.

Of lesser importance was the identification of patients with depression.

Health protection

Highly valued were the reporting of notifiable diseases and identifying contacts for STI tracing.

Less valued by preceptors were ensuring annual influenza vaccination in targeted groups and hand-washing by residents between patients.

Conclusion

Results suggest that preferential importance is given to preventive care in family practice.

Improvement is needed in areas given less importance, namely counselling sedentary patients and promoting influenza vaccination.

Methodology

Online survey of 2010 and 2011 graduating family physicians from two Canadian universities. (N=343)



Response rate : 54 %



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