

Increasing Fecal Immunochemical Testing in a Community Health Clinic

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Problem Statement

- In 2022, data collected from the electronic health records at a community health center showed that only 24.87% (n=226) out of 908 patients were considered current for colorectal cancer screening.
- Of those patients who were current, 177 (19%) fecal immunochemical test (FIT) kits were ordered by staff, and 35% (n=61) completed.
- Several causes of failure to do screening included inadequate follow-up after FIT orders, failure to utilize lab tracking reports to monitor pending labs due to staff shortages, and non-adherence to clinic procedures for distributing FIT kits to patients.

Setting: An outpatient community Federally Health Qualified Health Center

Population: patients eligible for colorectal cancer screening (CRCS), diverse in terms of demographics, reflecting the community the clinic serves.

Project Purpose & Goals

- Purpose Statement:** The purpose of this quality improvement project was to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of a multi-component process for improving colorectal screening in a community health clinic by increasing FIT screening by 25 percent through increased utilization of FIT.
- Process Goal:**
 - By Dec 11th, 2023, 100% of patients provided with a FIT kit by mail or in person will receive a phone call 1 week later to remind them to return the kit.
- Outcome Goal:**
 - Dec 11th, 2023, the community clinic will increase FIT completion by 25% to 50% (for ages 45-75).

Methods

Implementation occurred over a 15-week period in Fall 2023.

- Staff education on the NEW process
- The new process includes an adequate supply of at least 10-20 FIT kits weekly and the generation of a daily report listing the patients eligible for Colorectal Cancer Screening (CRCS) on that day.
- Mailing of FIT kits to virtual patients who did not attend an in-person appointment.
- A weekly reminder via telephone by either the current staff Community Health Worker (CHW) or RN for those patients who had not returned the completed test after one week.
- Data collection via a chart audit using REDCAP which is a secure web application for building and managing online surveys and databases
- Weekly project status update for staff

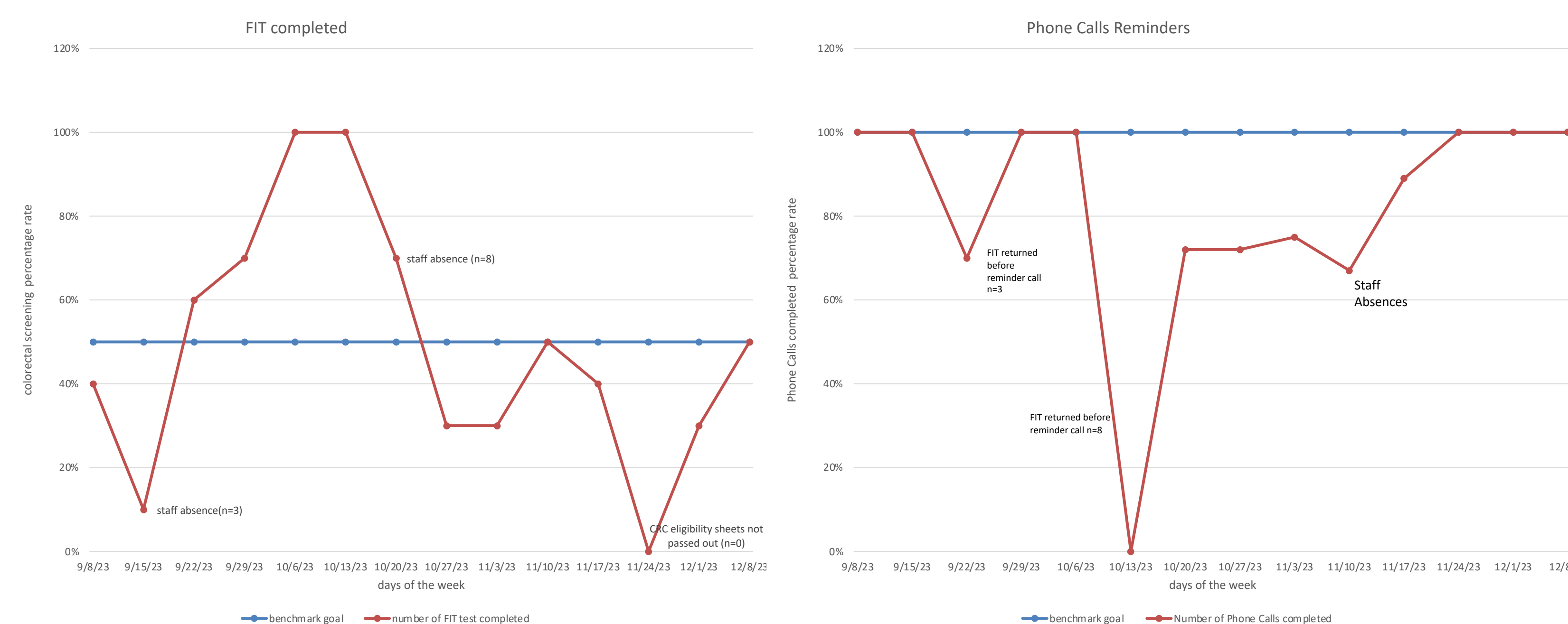
Discussion

- This quality improvement project aimed to increase FIT screening by 25% through increased utilization of FIT testing.
- Results showed a 54% completion rate for FIT testing, exceeding the initial goal of a 25% increase.
- Staff followed up with 100% of eligible patients, indicating successful implementation of the intervention.
- The 54% completion rate for FIT testing is consistent with literature findings indicating the effectiveness of multicomponent interventions, including FIT kit administration, in increasing colorectal cancer screening (CRCS) rates.
- The observed completion rate in the quality improvement project falls within the range of completion rates reported in literature for similar interventions

Limitations

- Staff absences due to callouts
- Telehealth patients not being screened,
- Not capturing completed screenings due to documentation errors

Results



Conclusions

Conclusion

- Data suggests that a multi-component process including distribution of FIT kits, reminder phone calls and provider follow-up may increase FIT screening. This project can be used as a model to help meet quality measures, drive outcomes, and address care gaps. A multi-component process can improve knowledge and patient participation in colorectal cancer screening.
- This quality improvement project's outcomes, along with evidence from the literature review, support the effectiveness of multicomponent interventions, including the use of FIT kits, in increasing colorectal cancer screening rates. The completion rate observed in the project aligns with findings from previous studies, highlighting the positive impact of FIT kits on improving CRCS rates and supporting the intervention as a quality improvement initiative.

Follow-up for Completed FIT Results

Eligible for FIT Screening	Number Completing FIT Screening	Staff FIT Results Follow-up
117	63 (54%)	63 (100%)

References

