

K. Chamberlin, BSN, RN¹, L. Villarreal, BSN, RN², R. Sharma, MD³, B. Wing⁴, P. Sheth, MBA⁵,
D. Mahadevan, MD, PhD⁶ & M. Salazar, DNP, MSN, APRN-BC⁷

1,2,4, 6 & 7 UT Health San Antonio. 3&5 Agilix Health

Background

Lack of Medicare, and other payors, reimbursement for Registered Dietician (RD) consultations for oncology patients have caused significant barriers and delays in care due to poor nutrition, electrolyte abnormality and cachexia. Home based RD monitoring services are billable via Medicare. Combining RD and Navigation (ONN) efforts can improve clinical outcomes.

AIM: Maintain normal total protein and albumen levels while on the program.

Project Design/Methods

Interventions:

1. Funding
2. Compliance
3. EMR Analyst built new workflows and workbench reports.
4. Agilix provided Bluetooth scales, & RD telehealth services
5. ONN / RD communication workflows.

Acknowledgement of funding: This project is supported by a patient navigation capacity-building grant from the American Cancer Society.

Interim Results

N-59

Pre-Program

Protein Avg = 7.15

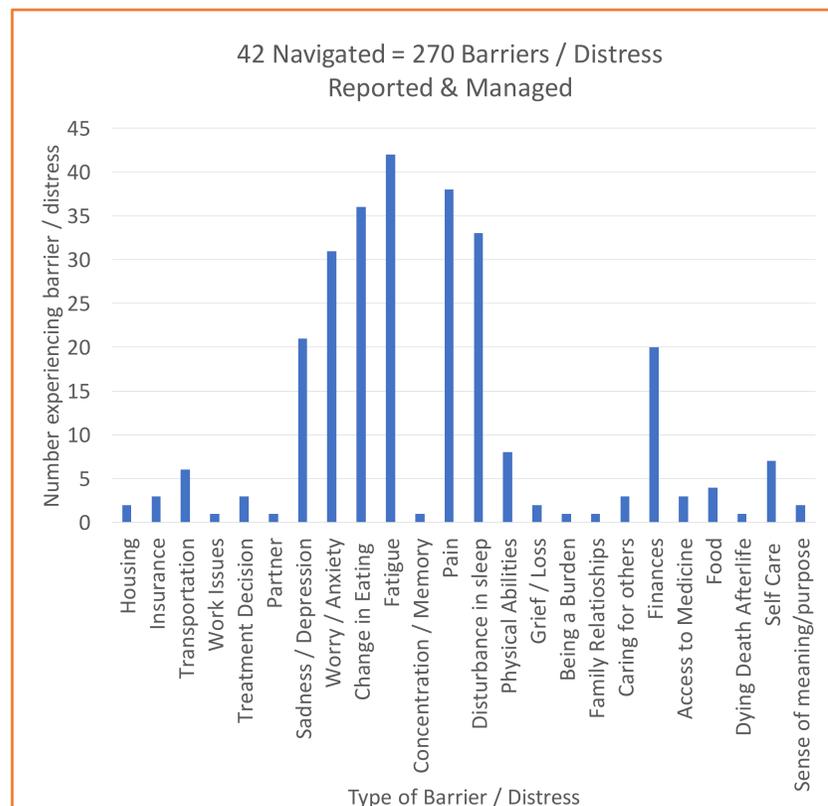
Albumen Avg = 3.29

Post-Program

Protein Avg = 7.19

Albumen Avg = 3.31

- Average Distress Score 1 to 10 = 5.8



Total Referrals = 123
Active on program as of 4/24/24 = 41
In process of enrollments = 4
Total active and discharged 71

Innovation

Home based monitoring RD services via Bluetooth scales, and weekly telehealth, allowed the RD to communicate with the ONN to bring additional support to patients who were not thriving.

Implications for Sustainable Practice

- Impact: “Outcomes & Effectiveness” and “Communication, Planning & Implementation”.
- Evidence: Navigation assessment, barriers to care mitigated and serum protein and albumin levels maintained within normal levels
- Challenge: Determine metrics to measure to document success of home dietary monitoring (gain and loss).
- Address Challenges: Compliance, EMR workbench reports & added 0.5 FTE ONN.

Next Steps:

- Create Satisfaction Qualtrics to patients
- Dissemination.

