

TITLE: Cervical Cancer Screening Outreach in Veterans

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Nurses

ABSTRACT: Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the US. Cervical cancer screening (CCS) is a reliable and effective tool for detecting the early stages of cervical cancer. Staying up to date with CCS can significantly lower the incidence of and deaths from cervical cancer. The goals of this project were to increase the percentage of Veterans meeting the recommended CCS guidelines, increase the number of Veterans enrolled with a VA primary care, and identify barriers to receiving care at the VA. Chart reviews and phone calls were made to Veterans registered as female for birth sex, overdue for CCS, and not established with a VA primary care. Veterans were called twice and sent a letter if unreachable by phone. Out of 520 Veterans overdue for CCS, 96 were up-to-date with CCS, 73 were interested in establishing care with the VA, 48 moved out of state, 16 had a history of hysterectomy, four were transgender, four deceased, and 269 were unreachable by phone. The main reason for declining VA care was the use of private insurance (72%). These results demonstrated the importance of consistent outreach efforts regarding preventative health screenings and upgrading the patient charting system to allow updates of patient results from non-VA providers.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe the importance of cervical cancer screening (CCS) and identify strategies to reduce CCS backlog
