

FACTORS INFLUENCING TOBACCO USE TREATMENT PATTERNS AMONG VIETNAMESE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WORKING IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

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Title: FACTORS INFLUENCING TOBACCO USE TREATMENT PATTERNS AMONG VIETNAMESE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WORKING IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Category: Scientific research

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Content:

Background:

Almost half of adult men in Viet Nam are current smokers, a smoking prevalence that is the second highest among South East Asian countries (SEAC). Although Viet Nam has a strong public health delivery system, according to the 2010 Global Adult Tobacco Survey, services to treat tobacco dependence are not readily available to smokers. The purpose of this study was to characterize current tobacco use treatment patterns among Vietnamese health care providers and factors influencing adherence to guideline recommended tobacco use screening and cessation interventions. This is the first study assessing smoking cessation practice patterns among Vietnamese health care providers.

Methods:

A cross sectional survey of 134 health care providers working in 23 community health centers in Viet Nam.

Results

23% of providers reported screening patients for tobacco use, 33% offered advice to quit and less than 10% offered assistance to half or more of their patients in the past three months. Older age, attitudes, self-efficacy and normative beliefs were associated with screening for tobacco use. Normative beliefs (e.g. most of the staff think that promoting smoking cessation is part of their job and my supervisors think that helping smokers quit is a priority) were associated with offering advice to quit. However in the logistic regression analysis only normative beliefs remained significant for both screening and offering advice to quit. Over 90% of providers reported having never received training related to tobacco use treatment. Major barriers to treating tobacco use included lack of training, lack of referral resources and staff to support counseling, and lack of patient interest.

Conclusion:

Despite ratifying the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Viet Nam has not made progress in implementing policies and systems to ensure that smokers are receiving evidence-based treatment. This study suggests a need to change organizational norms through changes in national policies, training and local system-level changes that facilitate treatment. We will present additional data on organizational factors influencing smoking cessation practice patterns from surveys conducted with approximately 110 health providers and village health workers at 8 CHCs that were recently enrolled in a larger NIH funded cluster randomized trial.

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