Use of Predictive Analytics to Inform Integrated Care Programs to Reduce Hospitalizations Among Hemodialysis Patients

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Disclosures

- KM, AGW, SS, JL, and SMB are employees of DaVita Clinical Research

 SMB's spouse is an employee of AstraZeneca
- MZ, BB, TB, JS, NL, and DR are employees of DaVita, Inc.

Background

- Integrated care for dialysis patients could benefit from identification of those who are at high risk for poor outcomes in order to efficiently deploy clinical resources.
- We recently developed a hospitalization risk stratification model to triage hemodialysis (HD) patients for clinician contact and assessment within an integrated care clinical program (ICCP).
- In this analysis, we compared hospitalization rates before and after model implementation for patients enrolled in an ICCP and control patients who were not.

Methods: Risk Stratification Model

Inputs and Performance

- The model is based on >100 input terms representing
 - Demographics
 - Comorbidities
 - Laboratory values
 - Hospitalization history
 - Dialysis treatment details
- The model has very good overall performance and ability to discriminate

- AUC = 0.81

Patient Stratification

Model classifies patients as high, medium, or low risk



Methods: Patients and Analysis

- All patients received our standard level of care consistent with industry best practices and regulations.
 - ICCP patients predicted to be medium and high risk received additional services (eg, telephonic health programs, case management, health screens, resource navigation) proportional to predicted risk level.
- We estimated the change over time from baseline (Feb 2017-April 2018) to the post program intervention (Jan-Aug 2019) for program enrollees and controls, and compare these using relative rate ratios.

 - Comparisons were stratified by predicted risk level.
 A priori, we anticipated potential effects in the high- and medium-risk groups. The low-risk group was included as a negative control because low-risk status should not have led to differential clinical action based on program design.

Results: High Risk Patients



Hospitalization rates **decreased** from baseline to the post implementation period **for all high risk patients**. There was a **6% greater relative reduction for ICCP patients** compared to control patients, which was equivalent to **an additional decrease of 0.2 admits per patient-year**.

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Results: Medium Risk



Hospitalization rates **decreased** from baseline to the post implementation period **for all medium risk patients**. There was a **5% greater relative reduction for ICCP patients** compared to control patients, which was equivalent to **an additional decrease of 0.1 admits per patient-year**.

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Results: Low Risk



Hospitalization rates **did not change** from baseline to the post implementation period for **low risk patients**. There were **no significant differences** observed between ICCP patients compared to control patients.

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Conclusions

- Implementation of a risk-level based integrated care program seems to have reduced hospitalization rates among high- and medium-risk patients.
- No significant difference in temporal hospitalization reduction was seen among low-risk patients.
 - This is reassuring that greater levels of care directed at high- and medium-risk patients seemingly did not detract from the care of lower risk patients and is also reassuring regarding concerns of potential selection bias.
- These results support the potential utility of predictive analytics to support programs aimed at improving clinical outcomes among HD patients.

Limitations

- Analyses were not adjusted for differences
 between exposure groups
- The effect of any specific interventions that were employed based on the model output cannot be determined or inferred based on these results