

Communications Team

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Text Messaging to Improve Treatment for Tuberculosis

Overview:

This project aims to develop guidelines for a text message system that addresses the barriers to treatment for patients with latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) at an outpatient TB clinic. The long-term goals of the project are to improve LTBI treatment adherence, reduce the number of missed appointments, and reduce the time to completion of treatment. The short-term goal is to design a text messaging program that incorporates research evidence and participatory research into a viable and useful communication modality for the TB clinic and its patients.

Method/Participants:

We will conduct focus groups with clinic staff and individual interviews with clients to determine the essential components of text messages for the clinic. This data will be combined with literature review to develop a framework for effective, evidence-based messages. These messages will address critical barriers to treatment and will follow three distinct messaging topics: appointment reminders, medication reminders, and psychosocial support.

Results:

Results of this project are expected to benefit public health departments seeking more effective ways to address LTBI treatment adherence. This project is also expected to contribute to the advancement of community health nursing practice.

Recommendations:

Upon completion of the project, recommendations will be disseminated for the design of a text message system to improve LTBI treatment.

