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Developing and Integrating the Management of Elder Abuse in Primary Practice: A Case Study Using A Web-Based CME Course Format

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Developing and Integrating the Management of Elder Abuse in Primary Practice: A Case Study Using A Web-Based CME Course Format, Jillian C Webb, MS. UTHSC-H School of Health Information Sciences, Houston, TX, Catherine Doughty. UTHSC-H School of Health Information Sciences, Adol Esquivel, MD. UTHSC-H School of Health Information Sciences, Kim Dunn, PhD, MD. HAMTMC, Carmel Dyer, MD. UTMB,

Introduction: As the population in the United States continues to age, more attention in primary practice settings is now devoted toward managing the care of the elderly. The occurrence of elder abuse is a growing problem. It is a condition many professionals in primary care may be ill prepared with the knowledge or resources to identify and manage.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to develop a protocol for the management of elder abuse in primary care settings that can be used to integrate this body of knowledge into everyday practice. The protocol will also serve as a standard metric of care in identifying and managing elder abuse.

Methods: The protocol will be delivered following the Your Doctor Program Methodology. This is a model that integrates standards from specialized bodies of medical knowledge into the primary care practice environments. Following this methodology, the protocol will be delivered via an online training course for CME credit. Upon course completion, these professionals will customize the protocol and integrate it into their discharge process from their practices. On-demand telemedicine will be provided to these practices from the professionals who developed the protocol and web-based training course.

Results: The protocol has been developed and has been integrated into the proposed web-based training course. In the summer of 2007, this course will be piloted by three practice settings. The course content will then be evaluated by these users and modified prior to expansion.

Conclusion: A common problem in informatics is translating a specialized body of knowledge into routines and protocols that can be embedded in the work routines of primary care settings. The Your Doctor Program Methodology provides a unique way of overcoming this problem by using web-based technology to disseminate this knowledge and to integrate into this practice settings.