



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

F O U N D A T I O N

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Prostate Cancer Screening and Informed Decision Making: A Survey of Physician Practices and Beliefs (G0602PB)

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Abstract

The long-term goal of this project is to promote patient informed decision making (IDM) surrounding prostate cancer screening in primary care settings, consistent with recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), the Task Force on Community Preventive Services of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Previous qualitative research of physician practices regarding IDM for prostate cancer screening has revealed two practice patterns: routine screeners, where physicians screen for prostate cancer without discussing harms and benefits of testing; and non-routine screeners, where physicians discuss harms and benefits before testing. The distribution of these two practice patterns in family medicine is unclear, and the factors which explain physicians adopting one pattern over another need to be further explored. The aim of this study is to describe current prostate cancer screening practices, including perceived barriers and beliefs related to IDM for prostate cancer screening among family physicians, through a survey of the approximately 350 members of the National Research Network (NRN) operated by the American Academy of Family Physicians. A multi-pronged strategy will be used, with an email invitation followed by internet-based data collection, and then mailed surveys for non-responders (an approach used successfully by NRN in the past). This project will contribute to our understanding of the specific challenges faced by family physicians in implementing IDM as part of routine clinical care, and serve as an important foundation for developing new interventions with the goal of integrating IDM in clinical practice.