

NAPCRG 52nd Annual Meeting — Abstracts of Completed Research 2024.

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Title

Patient and Caregiver Use of Patient Portal Features

Priority 1 (Research Category)

Survey research or cross-sectional study

Presenters

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Abstract

Context: Patient portals (PPs) are online healthcare platforms enabling patients access their electronic health records and offering different features to help patients manage their care such as viewing and entering health information, and permitting asynchronous communication between patients and their providers. The onset of COVID-19 propelled the rapid integration of PPs in primary care; however, little is known about the desirability of their various features.

Objective: Describe the use, and anticipated use for those without PP access, of PPs in primary care (PC) and how these relate to the patient's sociodemographic factors.

Study Design and Analysis: Cross-sectional survey of virtual care in PC in patients and caregivers.

Caregivers reported on behalf of their charge. Questions included the use of PP, or anticipated use if it didn't offer any, of five PP features: communication with practice, viewing records, entering information (e.g. blood pressure) into record, receiving information from practice, and scheduling appointments. We report on the use of features and associations between patient sociodemographic factors combining patient and caregiver responses and PP use, categorized into use 'at least one feature' and 'no feature'.

Dataset: We used a section of a larger cross sectional survey on virtual care conducted Dec 2022-Mar 2023.

Population: Ontario patients and caregivers 18+ years with at least one virtual PC appointment in the past 12 months.

Outcome Measures: Use and anticipated use of PP features, and their associations with sociodemographic factors.

Results: Patients(P), n=743; Caregivers(C), n=227. Respondents were 65+ years (P:9%;C:23% (i.e. in 23% their charge was >65), unemployed (P:19%;C:49%), and non-male (P:56%;C:46%). Respondents with PP access (P:58%;C:62%) report using at least one PP feature (P:98%;C:96%), and those without PP access report anticipated use of features (P:89%;C:92%). Amongst those with PP access, older individuals (>65 years:14% vs <65 years:1%); unemployed ((6%) vs employed (1%)); non-English speakers ((9%) vs English speakers (1%)) were significantly more likely to report not using any feature. Amongst those without PP access single individuals ((17%) vs not single (3%)) were significantly more likely to report not using any feature.

Conclusions: The study provides an overview of the use and anticipated use of PP features among different demographic groups and highlights the need to enhance PP us

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