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Background

- Due to sentencing practices and a higher incidence of crimes being committed by people later in life, there are significant numbers of people aging and reaching end of life while being incarcerated (Richter & Hostettler, 2017)
- Inmates are disproportionately ill with chronic conditions, mental health disorders, and substance abuse compared to the general population (Young & Patel, 2015).
- There is no current relationship between Spectrum Health Hospice and Palliative Care and the Department of Corrections (DOC).
- Additionally, there is no standardized process to identify inmates who may need additional resources including hospice and palliative care. determine if an inmate has needs for greater resources.

Clinical Practice Question

What is an acceptable evidence-based toolkit to promote the identification of frail inmates appropriate for hospice and palliative care referral, in order to promote a relationship between Spectrum Health and the DOC?



Framework

This project was a quality improvement project, focused in program development with significant content on policy.

As a framework, Donabedian's structure, process, and outcome was used.

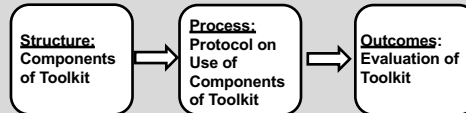


Figure Donabedian's Quality Framework (1988)

Triaging Capabilities of Toolkit

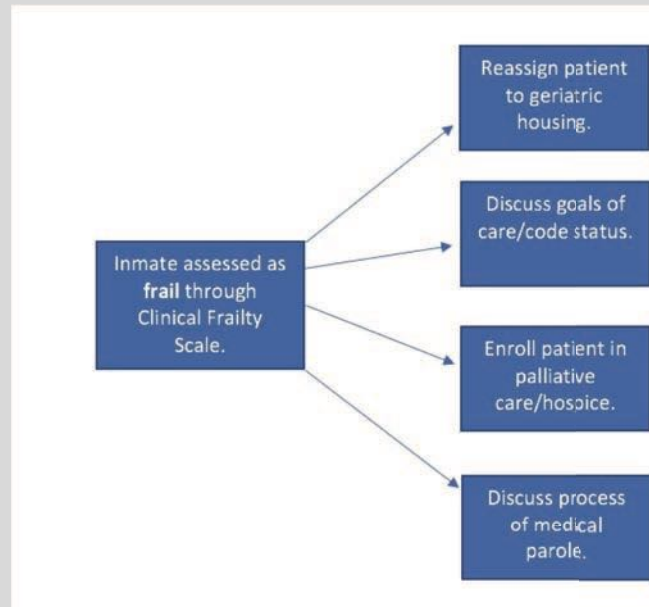


Figure Possible Resources Determined through Screening

Elements of Toolkit

An evidenced based toolkit was developed that includes:

- Frailty screening tool
- Educational materials to educate prison healthcare staff
- Cost Savings Analysis
- Policy Briefs for local, state, national use
- A protocol on how to use each component of the toolkit
- A plan on how to evaluate the toolkit components

Implications

- The DNP essentials, especially Essential V: [Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care](#), were utilized throughout the course of this project.
- The toolkit can be utilized in order to form a relationship between Spectrum Health and the DOC.
- Allowing for future collaboration and improvements in patient outcomes both in prison settings and the community.
- By standardizing the way that inmates are identified as needing certain resources, better quality care can be provided in a more cost effective manner, getting patients resources sooner.