Lang, Valerie

University of Rochester

Tool: Attitudinal Scale

Learner Level: Medical Student

Context: Inpt/Outpt/ED

This scale was adapted from a scale developed by Goold et al.

It assesses students’ attitudes toward high value care. The scale was piloted and revised, and is currently being validated in a multi-institutional study.

**Section 1:**

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| completely disagree | somewhat disagree | neither agree nor disagree | somewhat agree | completely agree |

1. Physicians are responsible for considering the potential harms of testing.
2. It is unreasonable to ask physicians to spend time balancing the benefits and harms of a test.
3. When making clinical decisions, the cost of a treatment is the last thing a physician should be worried about.
4. Physicians should order tests that might prevent a malpractice suit, even if those tests are unlikely to alter patient management.
5. It is unrealistic to expect physicians to incorporate patient goals into their clinical decision-making.
6. Simplifying medication regimens is the responsibility of every physician.
7. Physicians should order tests that might provide additional clinical information, even if those tests are unlikely to alter patient management.
8. It is unreasonable to expect physicians to understand their patients’ out-of-pocket costs.
9. Physicians should take a more active role in identifying waste within their own hospital system(s).
10. When prescribing medications, the last thing a physician should be thinking about is the cost of generic versus non-generic drugs.
11. Physicians who are concerned about the cost of a treatment don’t care about their patient.
12. Good care is cost-conscious care.
13. It is inappropriate for physicians to order tests simply to protect themselves against a potential malpractice suit.
14. Physicians should focus on saving lives, not on cost, when making clinical decisions.
15. Good physicians are in touch with the challenges that patients face in paying for health care.
16. It is reasonable for medical students to consider the risk of malpractice suits when deciding on a specialty.

**Section 2:**

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| completely disagree | somewhat disagree | neither agree nor disagree | somewhat agree | completely agree |

1. Trying to contain costs is the responsibility of every physician.
2. There is currently too much emphasis on costs of tests and procedures.
3. Doctors need to take a more prominent role in limiting use of unnecessary tests.
4. Doctors are too busy to worry about the costs of tests and procedures.
5. The cost of a test or medication is only important if the patient has to pay for it out-of-pocket.
6. It is unfair to ask physicians to be cost-conscious and still keep the welfare of their patients foremost in their minds.
7. Uncertainty in patient care makes me uneasy.
8. The uncertainty of patient care often troubles me.

I find the uncertainty involved in patient care disconcerting.

Adapted from Goold SD, Hofer T, Zimmerman M, Hayward RA. Measuring physician attitudes toward cost, uncertainty, malpractice, and utilization review. J Gen Intern Med. 1994;9:544-549.