

Long Term Follow-Up on Endoscopic Procedures

The Problem

There is currently no generalized accepted strategy to ensure that patients undergo recommended gastrointestinal endoscopic follow-up testing. When follow-up tests are recommended months to years into the future, there is a high likelihood that the test will either be delayed or not performed resulting in the potential for poor outcomes and litigation.

Aim/Goal

To design a protocol for ensuring that patients are reminded to schedule follow-up gastrointestinal endoscopic tests and that this communication is documented in the online medical record.

The Team

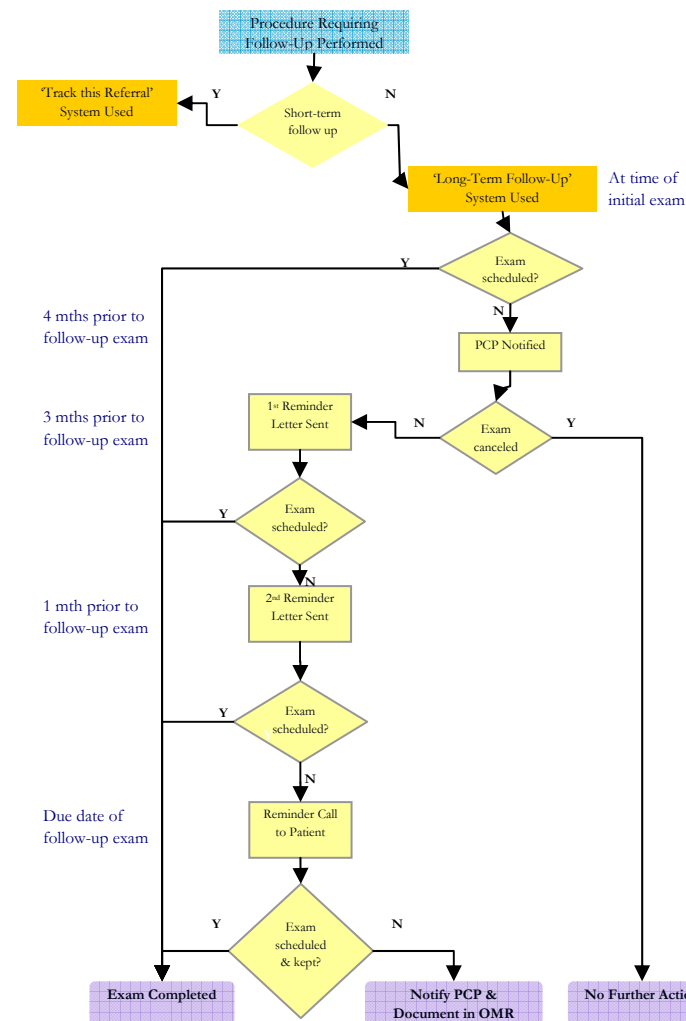
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The Interventions

- Received a grant from the CRICO Risk Management Foundation for the development of a long term follow-up alerting system for gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures.
- Developed consensus among primary care physicians and specialists on the characterization of a desirable GI follow-up management system using individual interviews and focus groups.
- Development of a draft design of a working system.
- The draft algorithm was evaluated by groups of clinicians and refined based on their feedback.

The Results/Progress to Date

We have designed a protocol for ensuring that patients are reminded to schedule follow-up endoscopic tests and that this communication is documented in the online medical record. This work provides the foundation for the creation of systems that significantly improve patient care, and can be easily adapted for use in many clinical departments and institutions.



Next Steps

Using the protocol illustrated here, the group is currently working with the Department of Information Systems to develop a computerized system, integrated within webOMR, for long term follow up on gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures.

