

ABSTRACT

A COMPARISON OF SELECTED PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR CORONARY HEART DISEASE AND DIABETES OF AFRICAN AND CAUCASIAN AMERICAN MEMBERS OF A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION IN CALIFORNIA

A focus on prevention by managed care organizations (MCO) may lead to a reduction in health disparities between Caucasian and African American members. Preventive screening and counseling are increasingly recognized as cost-efficient methods of reducing morbidity and mortality associated with chronic diseases such as coronary heart disease (CHD) and diabetes. A survey of 43 MCO members, 23 Caucasian and 20 African Americans, was conducted from July to September 2003 to compare differences in receipt of preventive services. The preventive services examined were cholesterol/hyperlipidemia screening, fasting plasma glucose/hemoglobin (Hgb)A1C testing, and health education/counseling. A chi-square analysis was used to determine if significant differences occurred between the two groups. In general, no significant differences in the receipt of selected preventive health services for CHD and diabetes were found between African and Caucasian American members of a MCO in California. Further research, however, is necessary to fully examine disparities in healthcare within the MCO.

Marci Lee
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