



Providing a Specialty Service: Dermatology at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since introducing dermatology at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC), we have successfully treated and made an impact on over 40 patients with varying dermatological conditions and created an effective follow-up protocol for patients seen. As a student-run free clinic, the PNC encounters patients with diverse medical problems that we often cannot address at the clinic. Problems that we often see are patients dealing with mild to severe skin conditions that could be easily addressed by a dermatologist. Helping patients deal with these issues can significantly improve their quality of life. In the past year, the PNC has been working collaboratively with the University of Minnesota Department of Dermatology on an initiative to provide accessible dermatologic evaluations, services and medications to patients that cannot afford it. Our "Dermatology Night" is offered every 2-3 months at the PNC, so many patients can receive a free consultation, come back for a routine follow-up or obtain medications. The first few dermatology nights were well received by our patients and volunteers. We were able to gather data regarding what types of dermatology conditions present to the PNC, which otherwise would not get evaluated.

In addition, for patients who need a consultation on regular clinic nights, we have a Teledermatology software that allows our volunteers to upload a photo of the skin condition and medical information to a database where dermatology residents can view and respond with recommendations. Beyond helping patients in the community, this initiative provides health professional students with dermatologic experience and skills that will be useful during and after their training. Health professional students are able to visually learn and perform procedures that are invaluable to their education.

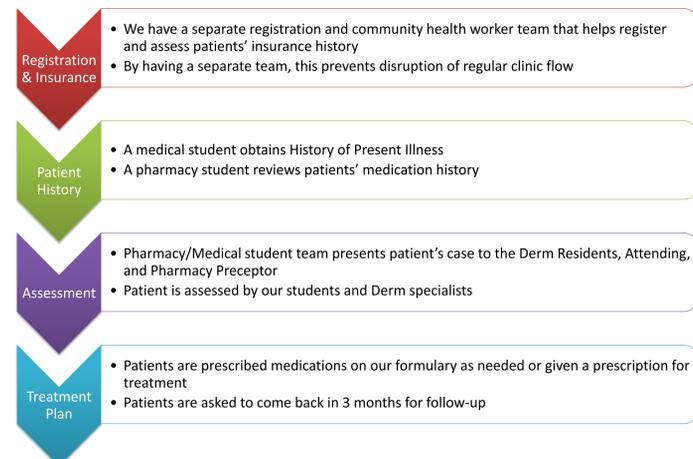
IMPORTANCE

Having this specialty is a very unique aspect of the PNC and is much needed in the community. Many low-income patients have unique risk for dermatological conditions (homelessness/unsanitary conditions predisposing to infection, high incidence of manual labor employment and associated chemical exposure (cleaning, landscaping, etc). Dermatology consultation is not affordable for many of our patients and often not covered by most insurers, which means preventable/treatable dermatological conditions can progress and become debilitation for many people. Overall, our partnership with the University of Minnesota Department of Dermatology has been an invaluable asset to the clinic.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To provide accessible dermatologic evaluations, services and medications to patients that cannot afford it
- ◆ To provide health professional students, including first and second year medical students, with dermatologic experience and skills that will be useful during and after their training
- ◆ To gather data regarding what types of dermatology conditions present to this clinic and which otherwise would not get evaluated
- ◆ To give dermatology residents and opportunity to volunteer in their area of expertise and help the community

TEAM DYNAMIC



FOLLOW UP

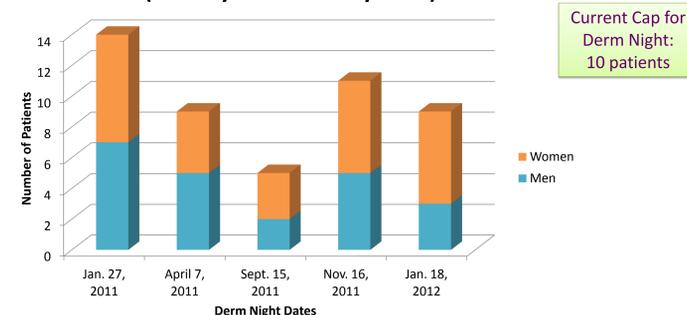
Our medical and pharmacy students call patients from previous visits to notify them of an upcoming Derm Night. If patients return sooner for a medication refill or need another assessment, then our regular medical team will use Teledermatology to obtain a consultation from our Derm residents. Patients are then asked to come back at the next clinic night if it is not an urgent case. The medical team at the next clinic night will review the consultation report and respond as recommended by the Derm residents and attendings.

What is Teledermatology?

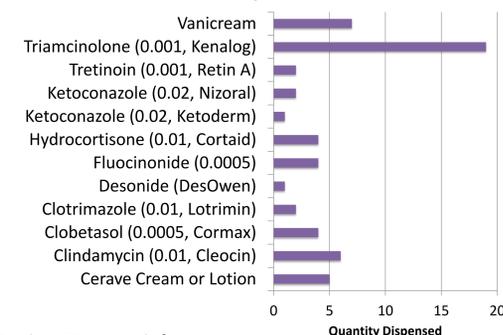
- ◆ An online software that was developed in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Department of Dermatology
- ◆ Teledermatology allows care teams at the clinic to transmit a photograph of the dermatological lesion(s) to dermatology attendings and residents at the university in order to obtain information and feedback. The team can then treat the patient in clinic according to the expert feedback.
- ◆ Information submitted: history of skin problem, physical description, and photo of affected area

DERM NIGHT DATA

Patients Seen During Derm Night
(January 2011-January 2012)



Medications Dispensed to Patients



Diagnoses Made During Derm Nights

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Acanthosis nigricans | Epidermal inclusion cyst | Periorfacial dermatitis |
| Acne rosacea | Erythema multiforme | Pincer nail defect |
| Acne vulgaris | Female pattern baldness | Pruritis NOS |
| Allergic reaction rash | Genital warts | Psoriasis |
| Atopic dermatitis | keloids | Seborrheic dermatitis |
| Benign nevi | keratosis pilaris | Tinea amnum |
| Café au lait spots | Leukocytoclastic | Tinea pedis |
| Chalazion on eyelid | Macular amyloid | Tinea vesicolor |
| Condyloma accuminatum | Melasma | Verruca vulgaris |
| Dermatitis | Mucoccele | Xerosis cuitis |
| Dihyrotic eczema | Onychomycosis | |

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- ◆ PNC Outreach Team bring flyers to local primary care clinics and our community outreach sites
- ◆ Flyers are given to patients in the waiting rooms
- ◆ Emails are sent to our community partners
- ◆ Patients are referred by our preceptors and care teams

WHY DERM NIGHT WORKS

- ◆ Dermatology is a visual diagnostic practice, so once a patient is correctly diagnosed, treatment is relatively uncomplicated.
- ◆ Getting the correct diagnosis seems to be the largest barrier to dermatological care for patients. (25 skin diseases account for 75% of all visits for skin problems, *Introduction to Dermatology*, Carol Sutor MD 2011)
- ◆ Many in-office procedures can be conducted in a free-clinic setting and have profound impact on patient quality of life
- ◆ Dermatologists and residents/fellows tend to have a relatively lighter work schedule compared to other specialists and are able and may be willing to commit a few extra hours to free clinic work.
- ◆ Many dermatological practices are not resource-limited and thus physicians may be willing to provide follow-up care at their facilities
- ◆ Dermatology night allows students one-on-one exposure to working with specialists and understand the need for specialized medical care in low-income medical settings.

CHALLENGES

- ◆ Finding preceptors who have access to or are willing to run pathology labs on any skin that is removed in clinic
- ◆ Ensuring that patients are informed about our dermatology nights
- ◆ Having enough dermatology-specific patients to keep the dermatology team engaged
- ◆ Maintaining an adequate dermatology medication formulary