Introduction

- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a chronic, progressive fibrosing interstitial pneumonia of unknown cause.
- Supportive care measures that are outlined by the clinical guidelines for treating IPF which provides patients with IPF management of their symptoms.
- These include breathlessness, cough and fatigue and may include oxygen therapy, pulmonary rehabilitation, acid reflux therapy (for GERD symptoms), sleep apnea testing and pulmonary hypertension assessment.

Project Aims

- Develop a smart-phrase of supportive care measures for IPF patients to be utilized by physicians during clinic visits.
- Assess knowledge base of the physician on the ATS guidelines and supportive care measures as evidenced by pre-test-post test scores during an ATS guideline education seminar.
- Absent documentation of supportive care measures will decrease by 50% by the physician group.

Project Method

- Physician Education: Pre-test, education session on current ATS guidelines, post-test.
- Chart review was performed on a random sample of IPF patient charts from the ILD clinic to identify the percentage of compliance by the physician group with documentation of the supportive care measures.
- Variables measured included supplemental oxygen, pulmonary rehabilitation, pulmonary hypertension assessment, vaccination, gastroesophageal reflux, lung transplantation and sleep apnea.
- The smart-phrase that could be inserted into the patient chart in the electronic medical record (EMR) by using a dict-phrase IPFSUPPORT to generate the checklist (Figure 1).

Results

- All project aims were met: smart-phrase developed, physician knowledge assessed with 100% accuracy, and absent documentation was decreased by more than 50%.
- Documentation of pulmonary hypertension and sleep apnea did not improve over 70% as these are often later findings in patients with IPF.
- There were noted to be a couple of barriers to complete documentation by the physician group: short new patient slots of 40 minutes which is not enough time to fully assess all pertinent systems, and there are other tests that need to be completed after the initial visit prior to a proper diagnosis being made.
- Using the smart-phrase did not increase the work-load on the physician which is consistent with current research.
- IPF is a progressive disease that worsens over time. Some of the co-morbid conditions have not developed at the initial visit and are often not assessed up front.

References