

## **Family History Collection in Oregon Federally-Qualified Health Centers: Current Practices**

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**Background and objectives:** Family history collection is an inexpensive yet powerful tool to improve the health of the population. As knowledge about genetics increases exponentially, the case for efficiently collecting family history information from patients is stronger than ever. Most clinics collect family history information using an intake form that patients fill out at their initial clinic visit. Our goals were to analyze the intake forms being used at different Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and to better understand the use of family history information in clinical practice.

**Methods:** We analyzed the family history section of the patient intake forms for all 26 FQHCs in Oregon. We then conducted 10 interviews with FQHC providers to learn more about the collection and use of family history information in their practices.

**Results:** We found there was great variation in the forms used at different clinics, both in terms of the diseases they include and in their basic structure. Interviews revealed that the greatest difficulties in collecting family history information are time and limited patient knowledge. All interviewees change their screening recommendations based on family history, and half change their treatment recommendations based on family history. Many helpful suggestions were given about how to create a better form for patients to fill out.

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Current practices of collecting family history information vary widely, with much room for improvement. More efficient and accurate collection of family history information is necessary for this tool to achieve its full ability to prevent or detect chronic disease.