Quality Improvement Study Start Up Consultations Improve Protocol Compliance

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Objective
To determine if consultations provided during the start up phase of a quality improvement (QI) study result in improved protocol adherence. The University of Rochester, Office for Human Subject Protection (OHSP), begun a new study to evaluate the impact of providing consultations during the start up phase of a QI study.

Methods
25 teams (n=25) that had initial consultations during the start up phase of a QI study were selected using a random number generator. A member of the OHSP's SSU team worked with each team to address study-related requirements, and rates were collected at baseline, before and after the consultation.

Results
There was a significant improvement in rates of compliance with protocol requirements (P<0.001; t=3.9 for a two-tailed t-test). Rates increased from an overall average of 61% before the consultation to 96% after the consultation.

Conclusions
These results support the hypothesis that consultations during the start up phase of a QI study can improve adherence with protocol requirements. Consultations are a cost-effective way to promote protocol adherence, and may be a valuable tool for improving the quality of research conducted at the University of Rochester.

For Further Information:
https://www.rochester.edu/ohsp/quality/index.html
Office for Human Subject Protection - SSU - (716) 675-2432

Citations:
2. Thistle, R., & Weissman, K. (2010). Improving protocol adherence during the start up phase of a quality improvement study. paper presented at the Research and Education Institute, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Chicago, IL.