The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program in primary care for frequent users of healthcare services: implementation issues

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CONTEXT

- A large amount of evidence supports the efficacy of the Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP).1
- The Stanford standardized program proposes weekly 2.5-hour meetings of 10-12 people over six weeks, facilitated by two peer leaders with chronic diseases.
- No study reports on the experience of frequent users of healthcare services with this program.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine factors associated with acceptance and completion rates of the CDSMP among frequent users of healthcare services followed in primary care.
- To highlight implementation issues faced by this clientele.

METHODS

- A descriptive design with mixed sequential data, quantitative and qualitative, was used:
 - Acceptance and completion rates were calculated and their relationship with patient characteristics was examined in regression analysis (n=167).
 - Interviews were conducted among patients who accepted (n=11) and refused (n=13) to participate, and with the program coordinator.
- Focus groups were held with the 7 peer leaders who facilitated the program.
- Data were analyzed using thematic analysis.
- Quantitative and qualitative data were integrated at the end of the study.

RESULTS REASONS FOR ACCEPTING CDSMP To acquire new skills to manage their health and 167 patients invited to connect with other Poorer mental heal with higher acceptance MAJOR FACILITATING **FACTOR** Accessibility in terms of 60 (36%) accepted to participate location and schedule **REASON FOR** DROPOUT Too much group heterogeneity No individual characteristics seemed associated with completion of the program 28 participants (47%) POSITIVE IMPACTS completed the program Knowledge Motivation Self-efficacy

Multivariate logistic regression for acceptance to participate in the CDSMP

Variable		Exp (β)			95% CI for Exp (β)	
	β†	p value		Low	ver Upper	
Age Sex HADS ^{2**} Constant	0.019 -0.109 0.049 -2.187	0.147 0.747 0.023* 0.034	1.020 0.897 1.050 0.112	0.993 0.463 1.007	1.047 1.736 1.095	
Note. † β = Regression coefficient; * p < 0.05						

CONCLUSIONS

- The acceptance and completion rates among frequent users of health services were similar to those documented in other clienteles.
- The positive impact of the CDSMP was recognized by participants.
- The CDSMP could be considered as a self-management support option for frequent users while taking measures to avoid too much heterogeneity within a group and considering ways to promote access.

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