

Pharmacists Working Collaboratively in Primary Care to Support the Needs of the Aging HIV Population



Joel Isais, PharmD, BCACP¹; Dawne Cylwik, PharmD, CDCES, BCACP¹; Sudha Nagalingam, MD¹
¹El Rio Health – Special Immunology Associates



Background

- An increase in life expectancy in people living with HIV, due in part to the introduction of antiretroviral therapy, has resulted in an increase in the necessity to care for the comorbidities associated with aging.¹
- According to the CDC, 48% of people in the United States diagnosed with HIV are age 50 or older.²
- For every 100 people 55 years of age or older, only 69 received some HIV care and only 56 were retained in care.³
- It is known that HIV-infected individuals are at higher risk of having cardiovascular disease, hepatic and renal disease, bone disease, metabolic disorders and several non-AIDS-defining cancers.¹
- At El Rio Health, Advanced Practice Pharmacists (APPs) are integrated into primary care clinics where they conduct Medicare Annual Wellness Visits (AWVs) and provide disease state management of diabetes, hypertension and hyperlipidemia, support services that help meet the needs of the aging population.

Practice Model

Collaborative Practice

- APPs have prescriptive authority under collaborative practice allowing them to modify therapy, order labs, and close gaps in care for preventive services.

Diabetes Management

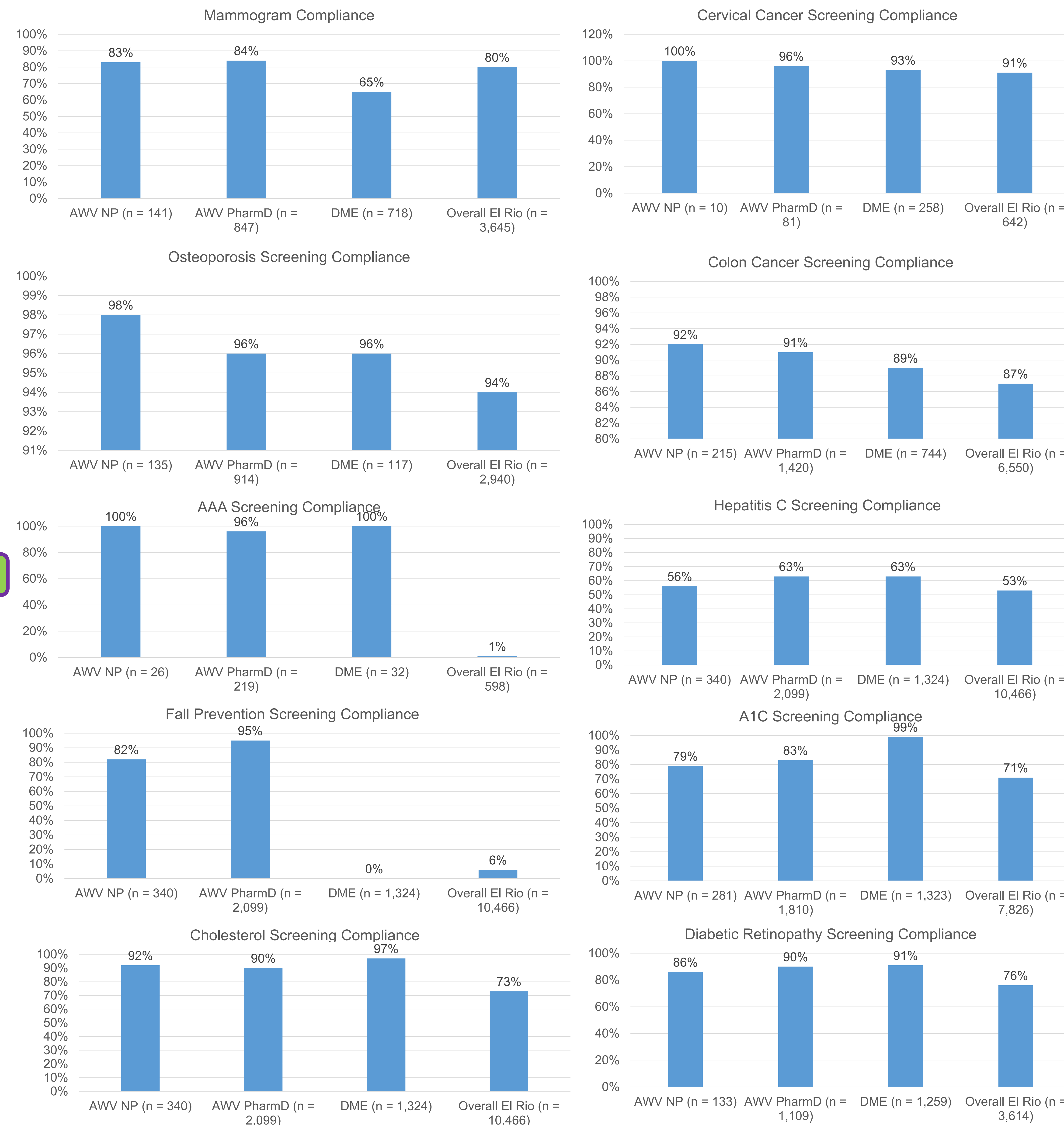
- In diabetes appointments, emphasis is placed on improving adherence, empowering patients to make healthy lifestyle changes and ensuring patients are getting appropriate preventive care.

AWV

- Medicare AWVs focus on addressing polypharmacy, coordinating care, ordering preventive care and assessing many geriatric-related comorbidities including falls and urinary incontinence.

Gaps in Care Analysis

- These data represent all patients seen at El Rio Health between January and December 2019 including those living with HIV.
- This analysis is aggregated by APP patient type (diabetes management or AWW), Nurse Practitioner (NP) AWW, and overall El Rio clinic patients.



Discussion

- The Gaps in Care Analysis summarizes improvements in care associated with having pharmacists integrated into primary care teams.
- Historically, patients who see an APP have an average of 0.8-1% reduction in hemoglobin A1c.
- To meet the needs of the aging HIV population, APPs are being utilized to support primary care clinicians by completing Medicare AWWs and seeing patients for chronic disease state management.
- APPs are able to modify therapy, close gaps in care, order preventive services, minimize polypharmacy and address nonadherence.
- Increased patient engagement has been shown to improve disease outcomes. In their current support staff role, APPs are well positioned to empower patients to become active participants in healthcare decisions to include prevention and chronic disease state management.
- Implementing a similar care model with emphasis on interprofessional practice may prove beneficial in helping to meet the needs of the aging HIV population at similar organizations across the country.

References

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Disclosures: Authors of this presentation have the following to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.

Joel Isais: Nothing to disclose
 Dawne Cylwik: Nothing to disclose
 Sudha Nagalingam: Nothing to disclose