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Can a prescription reminder significantly enhance folic acid utilization among women of childbearing age?

PPIP ACTIVITY: QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
DRIVEN BY PRACTICE

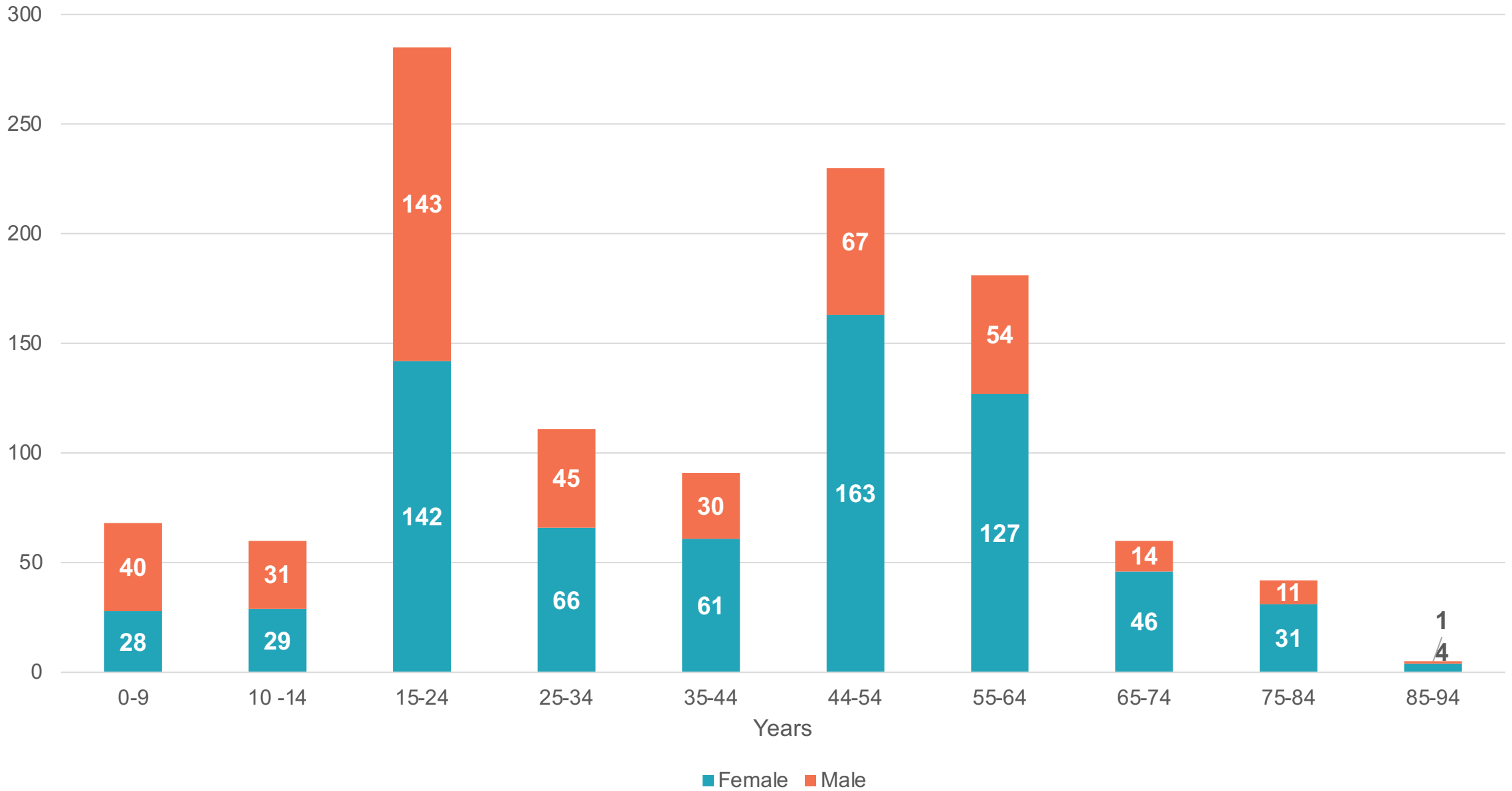
Project goal

Increase folic acid supplementation in patients of childbearing age by 25% over 12 months, based on patients' self-reports on questionnaires, through the use of a SIG note on contraceptive prescriptions.

Getting here

- Read a self-learning article on folic acid recommendations for patients of childbearing age to prevent neural tube defects.
- Deep sigh as I realize here is another recommendation that I haven't been consistent on discussing with my patients.
- Quick brainstorm of options that don't rely solely on my increasingly aged memory system.
- Ah ha! moment that maybe I could simply add a SIG note to contraceptive prescriptions to reach a sizeable portion of my practice.
- Develop a concrete plan of action to implement this plan.

Demographics profile: Age and sex distribution



Project process

- Identify specific contraceptives in the EMR to target the project's audience.
- Determine who is using these contraceptives to understand the target demographic.
- Script a project message:
 - Explain the project's purpose in improving health outcomes.
 - Ask about folic acid supplementation.
 - Inform patients of a follow-up in one year and provide a project timeline.

Project process

- Utilize Accuro's Ocean add-on:
 - Send questionnaires via Ocean to identified patients.
 - Automatically download responses for analysis.
- Save folic acid prescriptions as “favourites” in the EMR for easy access.
- Include SIG note for folic acid supplementation with dosage instructions to pharmacists.

Measuring our progress



- Patient questionnaire in Ocean sent to patients for response (baseline and 12-months follow-up).
- Automatic download into labs in the EMR once there is a response.

What next?

Follow up with patients after one year:

- Assess folic acid supplement adherence.
- Gather patient feedback on factors improving adherence.
- Identify motivations for starting folic acid supplementation.

What am I missing?



What next?

Implement reminders by physicians and pharmacists:

- If this is successful, what other SIG notes could be useful?



Team

- EMR support from Frankline *
- Clinical administration staff



Key takeaways

**EMRs are superheroes!
Are you using yours
to its potential?**

**The PCN team can make
quick work of tasks that
aren't in your wheelhouse**

**Understanding patient
behaviours is sometimes
as simple as asking
the question**

**Simple tweaks on the front
end have the potential to
make significant impacts
on patient outcomes in
the long term**

THANK YOU!