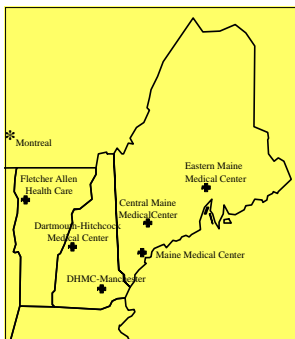


Parker, Leiter, Harder, et al, Evaluation of regional variation in guidelines compliance using CFF Registry data. Ped Pulm 1998 suppl 17, A701:408.

The Northern New England CF Consortium

- The Northern New England Cystic Fibrosis Consortium (NNECFCC) is a regional, voluntary, multi disciplinary group of clinicians and health care professionals from the CF Centers in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.
- Mission Statement: to improve continuously the quality, safety, effectiveness and costs of medical interventions in the care of cystic fibrosis patients and their families.



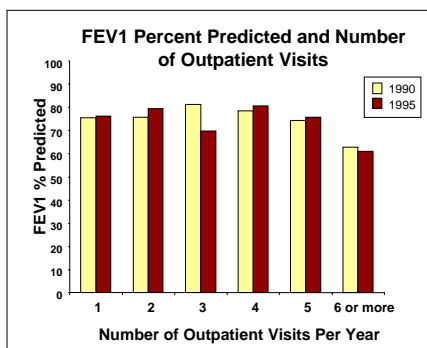
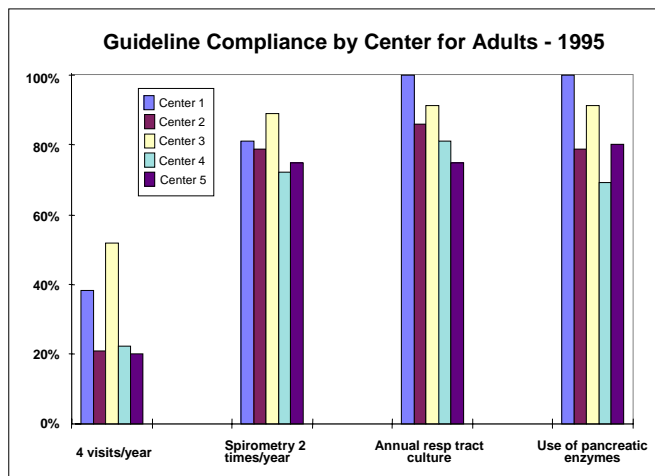
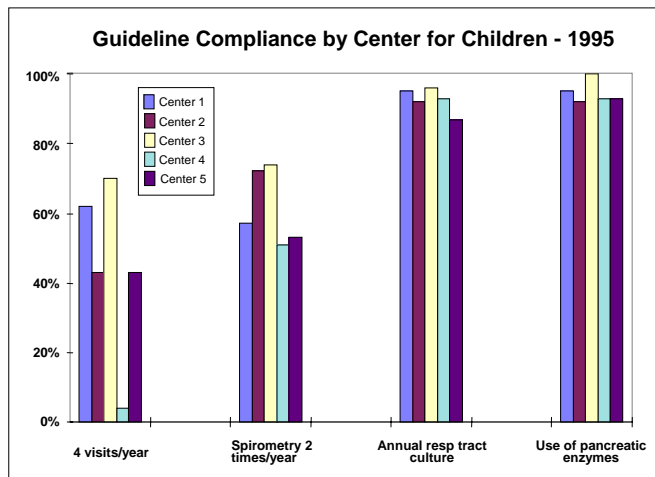
Goals

- Assess compliance in Northern New England with four quality of care indicators from the Clinical Practice Guidelines for CF.
- Assess variation between the Centers.
- Assess effectiveness of guidelines in influencing outcomes of care.

Methods

- We obtained a regional dataset from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Patient Registry including all 414 patients receiving care in the region during 1995.
- We assessed compliance in 1995 for:
 - Outpatient visits 4 times per year
 - Spirometry 2 times per year
 - Annual respiratory tract culture
 - Use of pancreatic enzymes

Results



There were no observable differences in FEV1 for patients having between 1 and 4 annual visits.

NCHS Height and Weight < 5th Percentile by Center 1995

	Center 1	Center 2	Center 3	Center 4	Center 5
Height less than 5th NCHS percentile (Target- less than 15% of CF patient pop)*	22	17	21	11	22

Weight less than 5th NCHS percentile (Target - less than 20% of CF patient pop)*	24	25	22	16	27
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*Targets from Clinical Practice Guidelines for CF 1997.

Conclusions

- In Northern New England there is substantial variation in compliance among Centers with four key quality indicators based on CFF Registry data.
- The CFF Registry is a useful tool to evaluate some key indicators of guideline compliance.
- Modifications to the CFF Patient Registry data collection form to include more guideline indicators would enhance caregivers' ability to evaluate clinical outcomes and quality of care.

Next Steps

- Evaluate which CFF guidelines are the most clinically relevant to track.
- Evaluate what's missing from CFF Registry data that is clinically important to track.
- Develop a regional standardized clinic encounter form (compatible with the CF patient database at Maine Medical Center) to encourage and assess implementation of guidelines and outcomes of care.
- Further analyze the impact of guideline compliance on clinical outcomes.