PREPARING FOR HEAT AT YOUR HEALTH CENTER

A Quick Action Guide

STEPS TO GET STARTED: LOW COST AND LOW TECH

There are a number of ways to enhance clinician awareness about and protect patients from heat. Some require limited cost and technology to get started.

CHECK THE FORECAST

- Review CDC's HeatRisk tool weekly
- Sign-up for Harvard C-CHANGE's Heat Alert emails
- Keep track of your community's air quality with the EPA AQI Tracker

LEARN MORE

- Spend 5 minutes: Take NACHC and CDC's Microlearning course on heat
- Review CDC's heat resources

TALK WITH LEADERSHIP

- Talk with leadership about patients' health risks from heat in your area
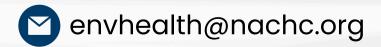- Ask them to raise awareness about this issue with health center staff

PRINT & SHARE RESOURCES

Consider sharing, printing, and posting
- Heat Tips and Action Plans
- CHILL'D Out Questions for Clinicians
- Reach out to local newspapers or radio to share about heat and health

HEAT POSES SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS TO HEALTH. TAKE ACTIONS TO PROTECT PATIENTS TODAY.

✉ envhealth@nachc.org

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LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO ALERT ABOUT HEAT: STEPS TO USE EHRS AND TEXT PLATFORMS

1. RESOURCE EXPLORATION
- Thoroughly evaluate the quality of existing data
- Identify and address any significant data gaps
- Understand and leverage your EHR system's capabilities

2. PLAN WITH HEATRISK & AQI
- Utilize the HeatRisk tool for planning
- Regularly monitor the Air Quality Index (AQI)
- Plan preventive measures for vulnerable populations

3. PATIENT IDENTIFICATION
- Utilize the CHILL'D-Out Questionnaire
- Identify patients with high-risk health conditions
- Assess and mitigate medication-related heat risks

4. INTEGRATE WITH EHR AND AVAILABLE TOOLS
- Import clinical heat value sets accurately
- Manage patient registries for high-risk groups
- Track and monitor high-risk patient populations

5. DEVELOP HEAT ACTION PLANS
- Utilize CDC resources for action plans
- Customize plans for individual patient needs
- Manage medication storage during high temperatures

6. PATIENT COMMUNICATION
- Enhance patient engagement using various tools
- Integrate effective APIs for seamless communication
- Send automated, timely, and relevant messages

7. DEPLOY & EDUCATE
- Configure the system and validate settings
- Obtain necessary approvals from relevant authorities
- Train users comprehensively and provide ongoing support

8. EVALUATE & IMPROVE
- Define clear metrics for evaluating effectiveness
- Gather and analyze user feedback systematically
- Continuously improve based on feedback and data

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, PLEASE SEE THE UPCOMING HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS MANAGEMENT IN EHR SYSTEMS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE!

To learn more about a Health Center who has successfully implemented Heat-Event related messaging with their patients, read our La Clinica spotlight!

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