

# FAMILY PHYSICIANS. CHARACTERISTICS THAT MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH UTILIZATION OF BONE MINERAL DENSITY (BMD) TESTING IN HIGH-RISK PATIENTS: CANADIAN QUALITY CIRCLES (CQC) NATIONAL PROJECT

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The CQC project was designed to improve family physicians. (FPs) adherence with the new Canadian osteoporosis guidelines (2002). The analysis examined FPs characteristics that are associated with utilization of bone mineral density (BMD) testing in high-risk (HR) women patients 55 years of age and older (n=3831). Guidelines define HR patients as having one major or two minor risk factors. FPs characteristics of 229 physicians (113 men and 116 women) were examined and included gender, year of graduation from medical school, country of medical school, full or part-time practice, hospital privileges status, solo or group practice, teaching practice status, works with interdisciplinary team, use of electronic health records, mainly fee-for-service billings, and member of College of Family Physicians of Canada. Generalized Estimating Equations analysis (with Exchangeable Correlation Matrix) was preformed using physician as the cluster variable. The Province of the FPs was adjusted for in the analysis. Results are summarized using odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals. The odds of ordering a BMD tests was higher in female FPs (2.60; 95% CI: 2.12, 3.20), those that worked full-time (1.73; 95% CI: 1.18, 2.54), and those who did not have hospital privileges (1.70; 95% CI: 1.35, 2.11). FPs who graduated medical school more recently had lower odds (0.98; 95% CI: 0.97, 0.99) to order a BMD in this HR group. In conclusion, certain FPs characteristics may influence BMD testing.