

Clinical Recommendation in Echocardiogram Summary

Phase 1: Model Share

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania & Penn Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia, PA

Background & Rationale

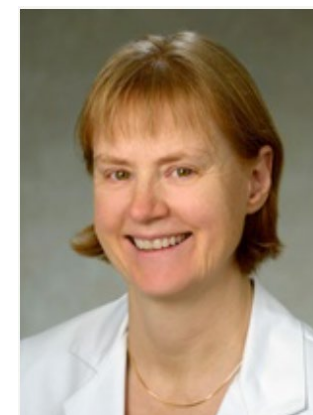
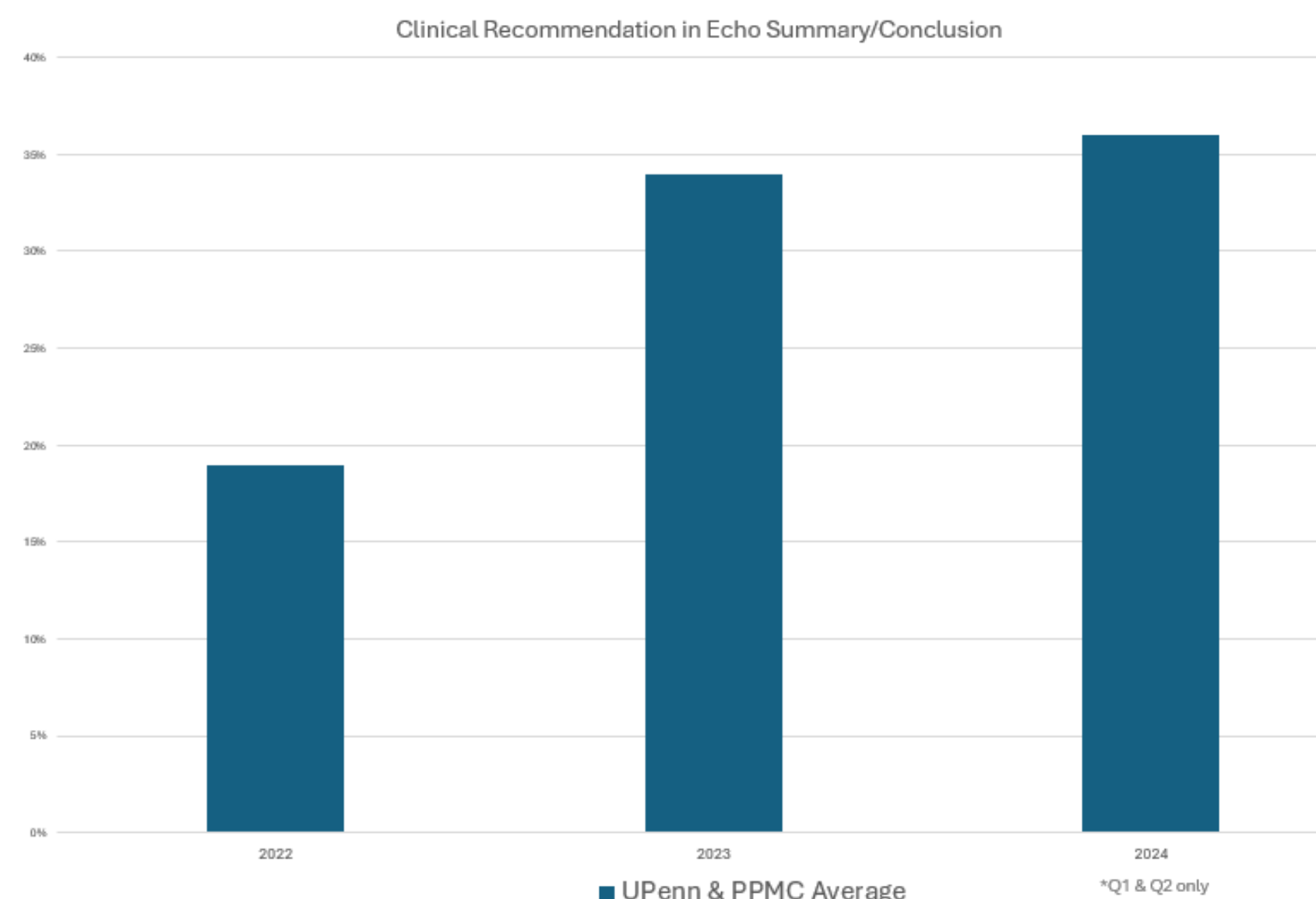
- Aortic Stenosis (AS) affects more than 1.3 million in the United States.
- By 2050 the rate of patients over the age 75 with AS is expected to double.
- There are known obstacles in timely referral and treatment for severe AS patients.
- All patients with severe AS undergo evaluation with echocardiography.
- Clinical recommendations can be conveyed using the echocardiogram report.

Methods

- Patients were deemed eligible by having severe aortic stenosis on the echocardiogram report.
- Clinical recommendations were automatically added to the severe aortic stenosis patient's echo summary.
- Reading physicians were able to modify or remove the statements on the reports.

Results

- More than 600 patients were diagnosed with severe AS over a 1-year period and received the nudge.
- A few internal barriers were
 - The referral pathways
 - Diplomacy towards the provider and the patient



Conclusion & Peer Suggestions

- Adding a clinical recommendation to the echo conclusion was feasible and easy to implement.
- Producing a neutral statement that all clinicians agree upon is important.
- We had pushback from some cardiologists regarding the specificity of referring the patients to a valve clinic, they preferred to follow the patients themselves. This resulted in the terminology, "cardiac specialists."
- Some cardiologists / cardiac surgeons felt that the recommendations were obvious; we gave the option to the echo reader to take the nudge off the summary statement, so it was not as visible. However, it remained in the full body of the report.

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