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# Cardi-OH ECHO Weight Management

A Patient-Centered Approach

Thursday, October 3, 2019

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- Adam T. Perzynski, PhD reports being co-founder of Global Health Metrics LLC, a Clevelandbased software company and royalty agreements for forthcoming books with Springer publishing and Taylor Francis publishing.
- Siran M. Koroukian, PhD received funds for her role as a site PI on a subcontract with the Cleveland Clinic.
- Christopher A. Taylor, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND reports grant funding and travel support for his role as a consultant, researcher, and presenter for Abbott Nutrition, and is also a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of Viocare, Inc.
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# Communication – Opening the Door





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# Objectives



After attending this brief didactic session, you should be able to accomplish the following:

- 1) Provide a rationale for why how weight is initially raised is so critically important.
- 2) Summarize an "opening the door" approach to initial weight management discussions.
- 3) Incorporate appropriate core principles into an "opening the door approach".

# Core Principles



- Terminology
- Empathy
- Collaborative
- Allow Time
- Medicalization

#### Rationale



- Weight is a sensitive issue for many patients.
- Why?
  - Societal expectations
  - Moral judgement
    - Lack of self control, lazy, uninterested in health
- An initially insensitive approach is likely to "close the door" permanently.
  - "Do you need an HIV test? Have you been pretty promiscuous?"





- Prescriptive approach?
  - Why?



# Opening the Door



• Viola is a fifty-six-year-old woman with type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, obstructive sleep apnea, and recently diagnosed stable coronary heart disease. She stands 5'3" tall, and weighs 266lbs. She has never had a discussion about weight with any health care professional. She lives with her husband (age 58) who also has obesity.

# Opening the Door



Solicit approaches

# Opening the Door



- Step 1: (Concern)
   "Viola, I am concerned about your weight."
- Step 2: (Medicalization)
   "It puts you at risk for worsening diabetes and hypertension, as well as worsening heart disease."
- Step 3: (Solicit mutual concern)
  "Is this something that concerns you as well?"
- Step 4: (Collaborate)
   "Is this something you would be interested in working on together?"

#### Variations



- "I am concerned about your weight. Do I have your permission to discuss this?"
- Adolescents:
  - "Lauren, I am concerned about your weight. Would you be interested in working with me and your father to make some changes in your lifestyle over a period of time?"
    - (Very gentle request)

#### What not to do



- "Let's talk about your weight."
- "Tell me about your diet."
- "Do you exercise?"
- "How do you feel about your weight?
- "Are you trying to lose weight?"

#### ...and worst of all



- Dawn brings her nine-year-old son Greg for a wellchild check. She has been told by Greg's school nurse that he has obesity.
  - Dawn: "Doctor, there has been some concern about Greg's weight."
  - Dr. "Yeah, it's true, his BMI percentile is just above 95. But he's an active boy, and he'll probably outgrow it. You shouldn't worry."

#### ...and worst of all



 "Well, yes, technically you have obesity. But you're on your feet all day at work which is good. You shouldn't feel bad about your work. You also have a big frame."



### Thank you!

Questions/Discussion