

## Waiting room tool aids patient-physician communication

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(HealthDay)—Patients who use a simple waiting room tool are more

prepared and more likely to begin their primary care visit by communicating their top priorities, according to a study published in the March/April issue of the *Annals of Family Medicine*.

Richard W. Grant, M.D., M.P.H., from Kaiser Permanente Northern California in Oakland, and colleagues designed and tested the Visit Planner waiting room tool to guide [adult patients](#) through the process of identifying their top priorities for their visit and effectively expressing these priorities to their clinician. Eligible participants (750 [patients](#)) had at least one clinical care gap (e.g., overdue for cancer screening, suboptimal chronic disease risk factor control, or medication nonadherence).

The researchers found that compared with usual care patients, intervention patients more often reported "definitely" preparing questions for their doctor (59.5 versus 45.1 percent; P

"The Visit Planner successfully guided patients to start off their primary care visits by communicating their top care priorities, an important gap in visit interactions identified in the literature and confirmed by our physician baseline surveys," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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