



Collaboration for Early Childhood Care & Education

November
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Physicians Network

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DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS: HELP AND TIPS

- Two websites provide a wealth of practical information to help you make developmental screenings part of the routine for well-child visits.

American Academy of Pediatrics:

www.medicalhomeinfo.org/how/clinical_care/developmental_screening/providers_info.aspx

Centers for Disease Control:

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/child/screen_provider.htm

- The American Academy of Pediatrics recently reported that “all pediatric well-child visits—including physical exams, immunizations, hearing and vision screening, developmental and behavioral screening, and anticipatory guidance, in accordance with the Bright Futures periodicity schedule—must be covered by non-grandfathered insurance with no co-pays or deductibles for families. Non-grandfathered insurance also cannot exclude any of these services from coverage or impose cost-sharing on families. This provision applies to non-grandfathered plans issued after Sept. 23, and will apply to more private health insurance plans over time.” (*Federal Update*, September 23, 2010.)
- Two practical steps can help practitioners know if a parent has followed through on referrals and if a patient is receiving services:
 1. Place the patient on the list for a follow-up call 2-3 weeks after making the referral. The nurse can ask if the parent has made an appointment for an evaluation.
 2. Schedule the patient for a follow-up visit 2-3 months after the referral was made to ascertain the child’s progress and determine if therapy has begun.
- Call 708-449-0625 for Free Public Awareness Materials available from Central and West Suburban Cook County Child Family Connections at Suburban Access Inc.

MEMBER OF PHYSICIANS NETWORK AWARDED CATCH GRANT

The American Academy of Pediatrics awarded Rebecca Barbato, M.D., a founding member of the Physicians Network, a CATCH Grant this past summer. Over the past two years the Physicians Network has been working to provide practitioners with information to successfully implement developmental screening during well child visits. The purpose of the grant is to promote widespread administration of developmental screening by Oak Park area medical practitioners, and to assure that practitioners are informed about local developmental services and how to help their patients access them. If you are interested in participating in a focus group or sharing your experience with us on these topics, please email physiciansnetwork@collab4kids.org or call 708-613-6122.

Tackling Childhood Obesity

Obesity counseling is challenging for pediatricians in a busy practice. Members of the Physicians Network wonder, “What impact can I make on a patient or a family in a 15-minute visit? What resources are there in my community to help me make an impact?”

On November 9th, Dr. Karen Binns will be speaking at our Physicians Network Breakfast. Dr. Binns will share recent data on obesity. She will also discuss strategies for effectively counseling children and their families and helping them to make important diet, exercise and lifestyle changes in the busy practitioner’s office. Dr. Binns is Professor of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University. She directs the Lead Evaluation and Nutritional Evaluation Clinics at Children’s Memorial Hospital, Chicago. She also directs the Pediatric Practice Research Group. Join us November 9th, at 7:15 am, at Maya del Sol, 144 S. Oak Park Ave., in Oak Park.

The Physicians Network

by Karen Walker, M.D.

Originally, we intended the Physicians Network to act as consultants for the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care & Education. However, through my involvement with Physicians Network, I have become a better provider. Early Intervention was our initial focus. Now, I know how this system works and I understand how to help my patients get the most out of their services.

I have also learned how to generate more income for my practice. The implementation of developmental screenings (ASQ, ASQ-SE, M-CHAT) as a regular part of our well-care visits have resulted in greater efficiency, better care for our patients, and good grades on our state report card. Our good grades helped us receive the maximum state bonus. Most insurance companies reimburse for these services by as much as \$50 per screen.

Our goal is to help all children in our local community to arrive at Kindergarten eager to learn and ready to succeed—a tall charge. We tackle many issues, from dental care to obesity. If you have concerns, or just want to learn along with us, then come and join the Physicians Network.

Our mission is to make sure that all children (birth to age 5) in our local community arrive at kindergarten safe, healthy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

www.collab4kids.org

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