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Office Based Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect: Lessons Learned from the Practicing Safety QuIIN Project
Diane Abatemarco, PhD, MSW, Co-PI, Ruth Gubernick, MPH, Steve Kairys, MD, MPH, FAAP, Co-PI

Abstract

Parental behavior effects child psychosocial development. Parents who once had the benefits and supports of extended families and communities are now more isolated in their parenting. The isolation of families increases stress. New parents receive little education and support to deal with stress and the added stress of a newborn or their very young children. This poster presentation will describe a quality improvement project based in pediatric practices. The study was designed to test methods to increase anticipatory guidance, screening, and referral for psychosocial development. The project included physician use of chart data to determine outcomes of their enhanced care. The study included quantitative and qualitative methods (i.e., in depth interviews, surveys, etc.) to determine physician adoption of prevention bundles. 15 practices throughout the U.S. adopted new practices to screen and refer for maternal depression, infant crying, toileting and discipline.

Objectives

- Identify which Practicing Safety (PS) tools were reported to be the most useful in each of the 3 bundles
- Recall at least 2 qualitative themes uncovered by post-in-depth interviews
- Analyze the office supports and systems that enable successful adoption of interventions
- List at least 2 lessons learned from the QuIIN PS project

Materials & Methods

Modified Learning Collaborative with 14 teams (lead physician plus 2 others from practice)
Model for Improvement: Plan, Do, Study, Act; small tests of change
- Prework, Baseline chart review, Pre-Inventory Survey, Learning Session, Intervention, Monthly Chart Review/Chart Documentation Forms
Data Collection: 10 charts of patients at 2-month visit (infant & mother/caregiver bundles) & 10 charts of patients at 18-month visit (toddler bundle), Monthly Progress Reports, Monthly Team Calls, Review of Run Charts, Follow-up, Post-Inventory Survey, Post Toolkit, Evaluation Survey, Post-Telephone Interviews

Results

3 Bundles
- Infant: coping with crying
- Mother/Caregiver: maternal depression, bonding/attachment
- Toddler: effective discipline, toilet training
Each bundle includes a practice guide and tools for each topic

Discussion

- Practices need guidance to incorporate practice-based protocols that address child abuse & neglect prevention as part of well-child care
- Physicians, if supported & mentored, are excited to offer families more concrete & systematic guidance in these areas
- Practicing Safety can inform more successful implementation of enhanced care & assists practices in establishing a medical home
- Parents are receptive to guidance on these topics & believe these issues are of significant concern
- Practicing Safety provided an opportunity for enhanced clinical education for physicians, nurses, residents, etc

References