



PEDIATRICS INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

March 28, 2002

Issue 3

Welcome to the Pediatrics Interest Group free e-mail update geared specifically to those working with homeless children and adolescents. Each issue will feature announcements, resources, news and events, and is brought to you by the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network.

We invite you to share your opinion on issues of concern to the pediatrics community. We welcome your feedback. If you have comments or suggestions for improvements to the newsletter, please send them to the Pediatrics Interest Group newsletter editor, Brenda Proffitt, at bproffitt@nhhc.org.

We're happy to have you as a member of our online community of clinicians working in health care for the homeless. We think that you'll look forward to each issue. If, however, you do not want to receive the Pediatrics Interest Group update, please send a blank e-mail to network@nhhc.org, and put Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the Subject line of your message.

Warmest regards,
Brenda Proffitt

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TEACHING PARENTS HOW TO CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

Many of you who participated in the Pediatrics Interest Group meeting in June 2001 identified a need for teaching parenting skills. In May, the Institute for Healthcare Advancement is offering a Health Literacy Conference. One of the sessions will be "Meeting the Health Needs of Head Start Parents: Programs and Research." This session will review a model that utilizes an existing population with an identified need for easy-to-use health care information, providing them with an easy-to-read self-help health book that teaches parents how to take care of their children. The conference will be held May 9 - 10, 2002, in Anaheim, California; to learn more, visit

<http://www.iha4health.org>.

Institute for Healthcare Advancement is dedicated to advancing health care delivery by demonstrating innovative practices and educating consumers and health care professionals alike. Four easy-to-read health care materials are available:

- What to do when your child gets sick;
- What to do for teen health;
- What to do for senior health; and
- What to do when you're having a baby.

All are written at a third- to fifth-grade reading level, and each title is available in English or Spanish. Sick Child and Senior titles are also available in Vietnamese. IHA also publishes the companion curriculum, Health Education Literacy Program, which is written to be used with the Sick Child book [available for free]. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.iha4health.org>.

RAND INTRODUCES TWO CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH & PROMISING PRACTICES WEB SITES

RAND has launched two Web sites, the Child Policy Project and the Promising Practices Network, that highlight reports and studies addressing children ages 0 - 18. The Child Health Policy Project is intended to deliver up-to-date research findings on children's issues to decisionmakers. The Web site organizes RAND's child policy research by topic area, including current research projects and a list of publications. The Child Policy Project Web site is www.rand.org/child_area.

The Promising Practices Network (PPN) Web site highlights programs and practices that credible research indicates are effective in improving outcomes for children, youth and families. The Web site looks at child health, education, community and families, and organizes information around three major areas:

Proven and Promising Programs, Research in Brief, and Strengthening Service Delivery. The Promising Practices Web site is available at

www.promisingpractices.net.

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PRIMARY CARE NETWORK NEWS, VOL. 6, NUMBER 5, MARCH 2002

CHILDREN'S HEALTH UNDER MEDICAID

What percentage of children enrolled in Medicaid are receiving well-child screens through EPSDT? In 1997, 35 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid received a well-child screen through EPSDT; 65 percent did not. What can you do to improve preventive care for children? Find out in the updated report, *Children's Health Under Medicaid: A National Review of EPSDT (1998)* and the newly published 2001 Addendum with updated data. To order, call the National Health Law Program at 310 204-6010 or send an e-mail to nhelp@healthlaw.org. The 1998 report is \$35, and the addendum is \$15 with a past or present purchase of the 1998 report. Find out more on NHeLP's Web site at

www.healthlaw.org.

PEDIATRIC TUBERCULOSIS: AN AUDIOTAPE FOR CLINICIANS

A 49-minute tape and printed listener's guide can be ordered from the Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center by calling 415 502-4600. Ordering information is also available on the Center's Web site at

www.nationaltbcenter.edu.

DELIVERY OF COMPREHENSIVE ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICES

I'm looking for research on best practices for the organization and delivery of comprehensive adolescent health services. My interest is in identifying practices, programs, and models--and research on the same--that address the unique issues related to delivering health, mental health and preventive services to low-income teens. Rather than disease-specific guidelines, or preventive care guidelines such as GAPS, we're looking for evidence-based research on how clinics/practices effectively staff, schedule, support, protect confidentiality, and generally deliver teen-friendly services. I'd welcome any suggestions. Please respond to

pmforman@mindspring.com.

Thanks,

Pat Forman, MPH, MA

HEALTHY FOUNDATION/VITAMIN RELIEF USA: CHILDREN FIRST

Attached please find a press release [see: PR Congress Funds Vitamins.doc] announcing Congressional funding through Health and Human Services and the Department of Education of \$500,000 to The Healthy Foundation/Vitamin Relief USA - Children First to conduct a study on the impact of vitamin intake and the school performance of at-risk youth. We would appreciate if you would feature this important story. Please call if you would like more detail.

Also attached is a copy of a letter to the editor of the LA Times by Dr. Cass on our behalf [see: LA times.doc].

Thank you,

Michael Alan Morton, Executive Director, The Healthy Foundation/Vitamin Relief USA
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NEW REPORTS SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Two reports from the Commonwealth Fund examine the current roles and future potential of community health centers and maternal and child health programs to promote services for children age 3 and younger. A third report by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services published in the MMWR, includes a systematic review of early childhood development interventions and family housing interventions.

The first report, "Child Development Programs in Community Health Centers" states that federally qualified community health centers (CHCs) are "ideal sites" for providing care to low-income children and their families. The study surveyed more than 100 CHCs on their provision of child development services and programs and found that the majority of centers provide at least one health education activity for parents; that about half of the CHCs have programs that stress the importance reading aloud to young children; and about 38% said that they have programs in injury prevention. According to the report, CHCs could use greater federal guidance and assistance in expanding those programs.

The second report, "Using the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to Support Child Development Services," looks at how states can use the

MCH Block Grant to expand child development programs, and highlights four state examples. The report explains that due to flexibility in the MCH Block Grant, states can structure their programs as "broadly targeted" grants to qualified communities or organizations to enhance child health through interventions targeting parents and caregivers, and can improve preventive health services for low-income children under three years of age. The report also includes specific approaches that Title V agencies can use to coordinate with Medicaid and SCHIP to improve child development services.

Both reports are available at

<http://www.cmwf.org/publist/publist2.asp?CategoryID=2>.

These reports compliment the recent report by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services, an independent nonfederal group commissioned by the DHHS in 1996 to develop the Guide to Community Preventive Services to systematically review early childhood development interventions and family housing interventions. These reviews focus on an assessment of the effectiveness of these interventions to address sociocultural factors that influence health.

Among its conclusions, the Task Force:

- Strongly recommends publicly funded, center-based, comprehensive early childhood development programs for low -income children aged 3 - 5 years; and
- Recommends housing subsidy programs for low-income families that provide rental vouchers for use in the private housing market and allow families choice in residential location.

The report is available at

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5101a1.htm>.

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PRIMARY CARE NETWORK NEWS, VOL. 6, NUMBER 6, MARCH 2002

APHSA RELEASES DATA FOR MEDICAID HEDIS DATABASE PROJECT

According to "The APHSA Medicaid HEDIS Database Project: Report for the Third Project Year," Medicaid managed care scored well on children's access to primary care providers in 1999, but did not perform well with regard to adolescents. The report uses data from the National Committee for Quality Assurance under contract to the American Public Human Services Association

(APHSA) to gather and analyze HEDIS data documenting the performance comprehensive managed care plans (MCOs) that enroll Medicaid beneficiaries.

The report, released by the Commonwealth Fund, analyzes data from 167 managed care plans in 31 states and Puerto Rico that cover 56% of the total Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in a managed care plan at the time. It contains benchmarks for twelve HEDIS measures related to effectiveness of care, access and utilization domains.

Additional findings included in the report are:

- Among women in Medicaid plans who gave birth during 1999, 59.2% had a prenatal care visit in their first trimester compared to 84.5% of women enrolled in commercial plans;
- Commercial managed care plans outperformed Medicaid managed care plans in several areas during 1999. Only 59.1% of women ages 21 - 64 in MCOs received a Pap smear in 1999 or the 2 preceding years, compared with 71.8% of women enrolled in a commercial plan; and
- Medicaid managed care and commercial insurance scored similarly on childhood and adolescent immunizations, well child visits for children ages 3 - 6 and eye exams for diabetics.

The report is available at

http://www.cmf.org/programs/quality/partridge_aphsa_hedis_1999.pdf

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PRIMARY CARE NETWORK NEWS, VOL. 6, NUMBER 6, MARCH 2002

MCHB ANNOUNCES DATASPEAK ON OBESITY IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

The MCH Resource Center announces a DataSpeak entitled, "Overweight and Obesity in Children and Adolescents" that will be broadcast on Thursday, April 4, 2002, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. eastern time.

Since 1980, the prevalence of overweight and obese children and adolescents in the U.S. has nearly doubled. This program will discuss the data and issues related to this trend. Speakers are Dr. Van Hubbard, National Institutes of Health, who will highlight the Surgeon General's 2001 report on childhood overweight and obesity, and Dr. Bonnie Spear, University of Alabama at Birmingham, who will highlight the importance of physical activity as a means for preventing and addressing childhood obesity, and will describe the Bright

Futures guidelines for promoting physical activity among children and adolescents.

DataSpeak is a series of audioconferences that feature special topics related to maternal and child health data, including children with special health care needs. DataSpeak is conducted by the MCH Information Resource Center and funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Office of Data and Information Management. Go to <http://www.uic.edu/sph/dataspeak> to register for the DataSpeak. You may also access this site through the MCH Information Resource Center's web site at <http://www.mchirc.net>.

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