

HealingKids

An E-newsletter for members of the Pediatrics Interest Group



IN THIS ISSUE

FUNDING:

- Children & Youth Funding Report

CLINICAL ISSUES:

- Children's Dental Care Access in Medicaid
- Oral Health Policies
- ADA Issues Special Report on Access for Children
- Give Kids a Smile Day
- Safety-Net Antibiotic Application in Acute Otitis Media
- Electronic Medical Record Improves Pediatric Primary Care

RESOURCES:

- American Academy of Pediatrics' "Refusal to Vaccinate" Form
- Vaccine Administration Record for Children and Teens
- Homeless Children: The Watchers and the Waiters
- Improving Substance Abuse Treatment Within the Child Welfare System
- AAP Patient Education Brochures

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Early Childhood Caries Prevention Training
- Community Access to Child Health & Medical Home National Conference

* * *

FUNDING:

CHILDREN & YOUTH FUNDING REPORT

A newsletter publication that is available in either print or online editions. Reports are available on topics such as housing and community development, grant seeking and fundraising, and business and senior issues.

Contact: CD Publications, 8204 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910; fax 301 588 - 6385; phone 800 666-6380; <http://www.cdpublications.com/specialoffer>

* * *

CLINICAL ISSUES:

CHILDREN'S DENTAL CARE ACCESS IN MEDICAID: THE ROLE OF MEDICAL CARE USE AND DENTIST PARTICIPATION

This Child Health Insurance Research Initiative (CHIRI) Issue Brief reports on children's dental care use in the Alabama and Georgia Medicaid programs. Researchers found that less than 30 percent of children in the two states received dental care during the study period, and approximately half of these children received acute dental services, such as emergency and restorative care. Nearly all of the children who received care also received preventive care. Children who received medical care during the study period were more likely to receive dental care than those who received no medical care. The number of dentists participating in Medicaid affected the likelihood of children receiving dental care.

Contact: Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality; CHIRI Issue Brief No. 2, AHRQ Publication No. 03-0032, <http://www.ahrq.gov>

* * *

ORAL HEALTH POLICIES

The Surgeon General of the United States and the American Academy of Pediatrics have produced two publications focused on the oral health of young and old. Both of these documents have provided action steps as well as policy recommendations to help clinicians advocate for and improve the oral health of patients. In addition, these documents serve to remind us that collaboration between and among professionals is important in the provision of comprehensive, compassionate, quality health care.

The Surgeon General's *National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health* was released last spring. This *Call to Action* provides the basis for integrating efforts of current and future members of the Partnership Network to facilitate improvement of the nation's health through oral health activities. This report can be found on the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved's website at http://www.clinicians.org/oralhealth/advocacy_issues.htm.

In May 2003, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a policy statement, *Oral Health Risk Assessment: Timing and Establishment of the Dental Home*. This policy statement, focused on the oral health of children, provides background on the epidemiology and etiology of dental caries, preventive strategies, risk groups for caries, caries risk assessment strategies, establishing the dental home, and anticipatory guidance, parent and patient education recommendations. This report can be found at <http://www.aap.org/policy/S040137.html>.

SOURCE: Association of Clinicians for the Underserved, Clinician & Community, Vol. VII, Issue I, 2003

* * *

ADA ISSUES SPECIAL REPORT ON ACCESS FOR CHILDREN

As preparation for the kick-off of **Give Kids a Smile Day**, the American Dental Association devoted the contents of its Jan. 6, 2003, issue of the ADA News to a Special Report on access problems of indigent children. By sponsoring Give Kids A Smile Day, the ADA has brought attention to the needs of these children and identified efforts by organized dentistry to help meet those needs. Several articles emphasize the use of volunteer dentists.

SOURCE: *Volunteers in Health Care News*; <http://www.ada.org>

* * *

GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY

Give Kids A Smile Day, February 21, 2003, was a great success by any standard. As many as one million children nation-wide received free dental care, some for the first time in their lives. From the urban centers of the country to isolated rural communities, dentists and dental professionals in public and private practice, community health centers, and university dental schools opened their doors to serve children who, otherwise, would have no or limited access to care. Through the leadership of the ADA, the assistance of local dental societies and university faculty, and the support of industry sponsors, thousands of volunteers were assembled to screen for, provide treatment of and educate children about dental disease. Community organizations, schools, and local government were, in many cases, partners in the effort. For more information, go to <http://www.ada.org> for the March 3, 2003, issue of American Dental Association News.

Give Kids A Smile Day is being planned as an annual event; yet the sponsors and participants recognize that the larger problem of access will require the concerted action and commitment of public and private

sector institutions to find long-term solutions.

SOURCE: *Volunteers in Health Care News*; <http://www.ada.org>

* * *

SAFETY-NET ANTIBIOTIC APPLICATION IN ACUTE OTITIS MEDIA

From the Desk of the MCN Medical Director:

Isn't it funny how some research outcome-based interventions take forever to be used in clinical practice while some tried and true clinical interventions take a long time to be justified by good research? An article in the September 2003 issue of *Pediatrics*, "Safety-Net Antibiotic Application in Acute Otitis Media," confirms what many well-seasoned providers have been doing for a number of years.

The study confirms that providing pain relief and a "safety-net" antibiotic prescription (SNAP) to be filled only if symptoms do not resolve after 48 hours of observation can indeed reduce the use of antibiotics for acute otitis media. An interesting finding was that many parents were willing to treat otitis media with pain management alone and would be willing to consider that strategy in the future.

SOURCE: *Migrant Clinicians Network, Streamline, September/October 2003*

* * *

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD IMPROVES PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE

Risk assessment, immunization, screening and education are critical components of quality pediatric primary care. Supporters of the electronic medical record (EMR) hold it out as an innovation capable of reducing the practice of variation and improving the quality of care. The authors of the study "believe that the pediatric EMR will become the central component of the pediatric primary care office of the future."

SOURCE: *Pediatrics, 111(3); 626-632, 2003; Advances, (3); 2003*

* * *

RESOURCES:

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS' "REFUSAL TO VACCINATE" FORM

This is a published form that documents a parent's refusal to accept vaccination for their child. All parents and patients should be informed about the risks and benefits of preventive and therapeutic procedures, including vaccination. In the case of vaccination, federal law mandates this discussion. Despite the health care provider's best efforts to explain its importance, some families may refuse one or more vaccinations for their children. The use of this or a similar form may in some instances induce a wavering parent to accept your recommendations because it emphasizes the importance you place on being appropriately immunized. Documentation in the patient's record may help to reduce any potential liability should a vaccine-preventable disease occur in the unimmunized patient.

SOURCE: *Needle Tips, Spring 2003; phone: 651 647-9009; <http://www.immunize.org>*

* * *

VACCINE ADMINISTRATION RECORD FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

A form was printed in *Needle Tips*, Spring 2003, that helps to document immunization records.

SOURCE: *Needle Tips, Spring 2003; phone: 651 647-9009; <http://www.immunize.org>*

* * *

HOMELESS CHILDREN: THE WATCHERS AND THE WAITERS

edited by Nancy Boxill, PhD, Program Specialist, Women in Crisis, YWCA of Greater Atlanta, Georgia
According to a book announcement by Haworth Press, this is a compassionate, humane, and informative volume on the most unique and vulnerable group in our society today-homeless children. *Homeless Children: The Watchers and the Waiters* offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the children and the complicated causes of and solutions to their tragedy. The contributing authors share topical discussions on the issue of homeless children and the problem's resolution, as well as the resulting policy and practice implications. From this source of current research, policy and practice information, readers will better understand the circumstances of homelessness and discover the impact of homelessness on children:

- the psychological effects on children's development and behavior,
- the weakening of mother/child relationships, and
- the declining status of their physical health.

Experts also describe the difficulties created by under-funded, poorly managed, and politically unpopular programs for homeless children, underscoring the need for a national policy to address the problem.

Contact: Haworth Press, Inc., ISBN: 0-86656-789-5; phone: 800 342-9678

* * *

IMPROVING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT WITHIN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Since July 2003, four new National Program Reports and 50 new Grant Results Reports have been posted at <http://www.rwjf.org>. These reports, organized by topic area, detail the results of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grants that are now closed. In particular, The Child Welfare League of America produced a booklet, *Alcohol, Other Drugs & Child Welfare*, aimed at policymakers, public agency administrators, members of the judicial system, and the media. The 24-page publication highlights the problems that substance abuse causes for families and its impact on criminal behavior, and summarizes successful strategies in treating substance abuse. Go to the Grant Results Brief at

<http://www.rwjf.org/reports/grr/037953.htm>

Contact: <http://www.cwla.org/programs/bhd/aodbrochure.pdf>

* * *

AAP PATIENT EDUCATION BROCHURES

Helping teens learn about the medical and lifestyle decisions they are making is easily addressed with patient education brochures from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Placed conveniently in an office or waiting room, teens can help themselves to the topics that affect them, and no one will know. Topics include:

- Smoking
- Acne
- Illicit Drugs
- Alcohol
- Pelvic Exams
- The Need for Calcium
- Meningococcal Disease
- Anorexia
- Gambling
- Steroids
- Inhalant Abuse
- Condoms
- Substance Abuse
- Driving
- Marijuana
- Bulimia
- Puberty
- HIV and AIDS
- Smokeless Tobacco
- Choices About Sexuality
- And Much More!

Contact: American Academy of Pediatrics; <http://www.aap.org/bookstore>; phone: 888 227-1770

* * *

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PREVENTING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES TRAINING

Offered by the HCH Clinicians' Network in collaboration with the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved * March 10, 2004 * Baltimore, MD. For more information, call Brenda Proffitt at 505 872-1151

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO CHILD HEALTH & MEDICAL HOME NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) & Medical Home National Conference * July 15 - 17, 2004 * Chicago, Illinois. For more information, go to www.aap.org/catch/nationalconf.html

* * *

This Pediatrics Interest Group e-mail update 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. Plus, 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.

If you decide to cancel your subscription, please send a blank e-mail to network@nhhc.org, and put Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the Subject line of your message.

Virtually yours,
Brenda Proffitt