IDENTIFYING SOCIAL NEEDS IN PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE: IMPLEMENTATION OF A HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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Background

The socioeconomic background of children has been strongly associated with health status and outcomes, including educational achievement, socioemotional development, and physical health. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has recently called upon pediatric primary care providers to expand their scope of practice and begin universally screening for socioeconomic factors during patient visits. Additionally, some performance measurement programs have begun to employ measures to quantify the level at which health care providers are assessing the risk of health-related social needs. Though the AAP has not endorsed a specific social needs screening tool, numerous tools have been developed, including Health Leads’ social needs screening tool.

Project Aim: To develop and implement a screening tool for a network of primary care providers that reliably identifies the social needs of pediatric patients and their families.

Results

Compared to Medicaid insured patients, commercially insured patients had higher prevalence of identified social needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Medicaid Insured Patients</th>
<th>Commercially Insured Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun-2018</td>
<td>1,948</td>
<td>2,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul-2018</td>
<td>1,364</td>
<td>2,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug-2018</td>
<td>2,290</td>
<td>4,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep-2018</td>
<td>3,094</td>
<td>5,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct-2018</td>
<td>3,157</td>
<td>5,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov-2018</td>
<td>2,946</td>
<td>5,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec-2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Process of Implementation

April-May 2018: Development of Screening Approach: Health Needs Assessment (HNA)
May-August 2018: Practice Training
June 2018-Present: Practice Implementation
November 2018-Present: Data Analysis and Interpretation

Results (cont.)

Top need among Medicaid-insured patients
- Financing utilities (2.8%)
- Outside support (2.7%)
- Hazards in home (2.6%)

Top need among commercially-insured patients
- Less opportunity and recommended setting for HNA completion: annual well visit
- Low prevalence of reported social needs in this initial cohort; studies have shown higher rates of social needs in more diverse populations
- More research is needed to identify the most appropriate methods, frequency, and populations for social needs screening
- Next steps include developing a tracking system for referrals/assistance

Lessons Learned & Next Steps

- Opportunity and recommended setting for HNA completion: annual well visit
- Low prevalence of reported social needs in this initial cohort; studies have shown higher rates of social needs in more diverse populations
- More research is needed to identify the most appropriate methods, frequency, and populations for social needs screening
- Next steps include developing a tracking system for referrals/assistance

References


BDHD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL

We are the Pediatric Physicians’ Organization of Chicagoland (PPOC)
650+ pediatric primary care providers
100+ locations throughout the region
>345,000 patients
CARECARE patient safety
annually
Process of Implementation

**Timeline**

- **Screening Development**
  - April-May 2018
  - The PPOC adapted the Health Leads screening tool to develop the Health Needs Assessment (HNA) and Toolkit for use by practice staff
  - The HNA was embedded into the Electronic Health Record (EHR), Epic

- **Practice Training**
  - May-August 2018
  - The PPOC trained practice staff to implement the HNA and to document the results in the EHR
  - Training methods included in-person meetings, webinars, the Toolkit and tipsheets

- **Practice Implementation**
  - June 2018-Present
  - Practices started distributing HNAs to patients/families on paper and verbally
  - Results were entered into the EHR
  - The HNA was translated into 6 languages (Spanish, European Portuguese, Traditional Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Haitian Creole)

- **Data Analysis & Interpretation**
  - November 2018-Present
  - YTD HNA data captured in the EHR was shared with practices
  - HNA data from June-December 2018 was used in this preliminary analysis of screening implementation and results
  - Analyses were run using SAS software

**Implementation Tools**

- **In-Person and Virtual Training**
  - Electronic Health Record Integration
  - Training/Resource Materials

**Epic**

**Utilizing the PPOC Health Needs Assessment**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the last 12 months, did you or your family ever <strong>eat less than you felt you should</strong> because there wasn’t enough money for food?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you worried that in the next 2 months you <strong>may not have stable housing</strong>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Think about the place you live. Do you have problems with any of the following? Pests (mice or roaches), mold, no/not working smoke detectors, water leaks, no window guards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In the last 12 months, has the <strong>electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off your services</strong> in your home?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the last 12 months, have you or your family ever <strong>had to go without health care</strong> because you didn’t have a way to get there?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you or your family worried about feeling <strong>safe in your home</strong>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you feel that you need more <strong>support from other people or programs</strong> to help you care for yourself or your family?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you need help understanding your or your child’s healthcare needs (diagnosis, medications, plan, etc.)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the last 12 months, was there a time when your child needed to see a doctor or get medications or supplies but <strong>could not because of cost</strong>?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Did you or your child <strong>miss school or work</strong> because of a health problem that could have been avoided?</td>
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</table>

If you checked YES to any boxes above, **would you like to receive assistance** with any of these needs?