

The SOARNet Sentinel



SOARNet On Stage at Pediatric Academic Society Meeting

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The 2010 Pediatric Academic Society Meeting was held in Vancouver, British Columbia from May 1 - 4, 2010. SOARNet had 6 abstracts accepted to the meeting. A synopsis of some of those projects follows.



Health Literacy and Asthma Action Plans

Parents of children with asthma were recruited from practices within SOARNet. Parents were asked to complete a survey with questions related to written asthma management plans and their child's asthma. They also completed a validated health literacy tool and utilized a completed written asthma management plan to answer questions about 4 asthma vignettes. For each vignette, parents first identified the zone and then made decisions about correct asthma management. Management decisions concerned daily preventive medications, albuterol use, and when to call the doctor.

A total of 155 parents completed the surveys. Of the parents who completed the survey, 75% were found to have adequate health literacy. The average correct score on the asthma vignettes was 58%. The parents' literacy score and education level were associated with better vignette scores. Literacy and marital status were found to be associated with better asthma control. More research is needed to further delineate the specific role of health literacy in parental ability to utilize written asthma management plans and to understand if this is a factor that leads to worse asthma outcomes.

2010 Events

- ◆ June 16-18, 2010 - AHRQ'S 2010 National PBRN Research Conference, Bethesda, Maryland
- ◆ October 2-5, 2010 - American Academy of Pediatrics NCE, San Francisco, California
- ◆ November 5-6, 2010 - Ohio AAP Annual Meeting, Marriot Northwest, Dublin, Ohio



Rates of Immunization and Well Child Care Adherence in Underserved Settings

This study assessed the rate of vaccination series completion at four underserved sites in Dayton, Ohio to determine if this rate was similar to reported rates for Ohio. Chart reviews were completed to assess immunization and well child visit adherence in patients under the age of 36 months at 4 underserved clinic sites. Rates of immunization were compared to 2008 National Immunization Survey results for the state of Ohio. This showed a 81.4% completion rate for a series of 4 DTP/DTaP, 3 IPV, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 HepB, and 1 Prevnar.

257 charts were identified for children between 15 and 36 months of age. When compared to the National Immunization Survey results, site 1 was at 80%, site 2 at 46%, site 3 at 63%, and site 4 at 65%. Across the 4 sites, 67% were up to date for this series. Rates of adherence to recommended Well Child Checks was 39% overall, and varied from 24% - 48% at individual sites.

Vaccination rates varied widely across these sites and were lower than the overall State of Ohio rates. In addition, rates of adherence to recommended Well Child visits were low. These findings indicate continued barriers for vaccination of underserved children.

Parents Perspective of Their Child's Health Insurance

This study looked at parental inability to follow the recommendations of their children's clinicians (prescriptions, labs, x-rays, or referrals) due to inadequate health insurance. A total of 1,978 parents from practices throughout SOARNet completed the survey.

In the 12 months prior to the survey, 5.5% of children did not see a recommended specialist, 4.7% did not have a test, and 8.7% did not fill a prescription because of parents' trouble paying for it. 7.8% reported that their child's health had suffered due to the cost of care. Overall, 13.1% of parents reported not being able to comply with at least one of their child's clinicians' recommendations in the past 12 months due to trouble paying for it. Middle-income parents with private insurance were most likely to report increasing difficulty to comply with their clinician's recommendations.

Healthcare Provider Knowledge and Use of Health Literacy Techniques

This study assessed the knowledge of health literacy and recommended communication techniques in a cohort of health care providers in urban, underserved clinical settings. Clinicians and nursing staff were surveyed to assess their behaviors and attitudes towards recommended health literacy practices. 56 participants completed the survey, 33 clinicians and 23 nursing staff.

A large majority of the clinical and nursing staff reported that they are aware of strategies available to help ensure patients and care givers understand provided health information. They also reported an inability to recognize decreased patient and care giver literacy skills. These same providers reported a high use of recommended health literacy techniques.

Two other abstracts were presented at PAS - *Parental Ability to Correctly Utilize Written Asthma Management Plans* and *Mother's Persistent Depressive Symptoms and Their Preschool Children's Math and Literacy Skills: A National Study*. Lack of space prevented them from being included in this summary.

Current SOARNet Projects



Diabetes and Social Capital - Data collection is currently ongoing in this study. Diabetic patients in the Endocrinology clinic at Dayton Children's Medical Center are being assessed for Social Capital.

Parental Perceptions of Child's Overweight - This study will begin this summer at multiple sites throughout SOARNet. We will assess how parents' perception of their child's body type (using a visual scale) compares to their actual BMI. Parents will also be questioned to see if their provider discussed their child's weight at the visit.

Barriers to Mental Health Referrals - This study should be beginning soon. Parents will be asked their opinions about mental health referrals. Potential barriers to accessing mental health professionals will be assessed.

Underinsurance Study - This study is scheduled to repeat again this summer. We will re-survey parents to assess how often recommended medical tests, prescriptions, and referrals do not occur due to high deductibles, co-pays, etc. This data will be compared to that of our previous survey and shared with participating practices.

Practice Spotlight - Pediatric Associates of Dayton

Pediatric Associates of Dayton is a new addition to our network. They are a large group of pediatricians and nurse practitioners with offices in Englewood, Kettering, and Beavercreek. The physicians at Pediatrics Associates of Dayton were also involved in the Underinsurance Study. They agreed to participate shortly after joining the network.

Pediatric Associates of Dayton has 14 board certified pediatric physicians and nurse practitioners that provide personalized care for their patients' needs. Their medical staff, which includes a registered dietician and licensed counselor, is trained to help babies, young children and teenagers up to 21 with their healthcare needs.

The providers at Pediatric Associates include David Roer, M.D., Gary Youra, M.D., Mary Chitwood, M.D., Katherine Wingate, M.D., John Rahe, M.D., Marilyn Herchline, M.D., Linda Meister, M.D., Jennifer Conlon, M.D., Jennifer Feldman, M.D., Shalini Ryan, D.O., Elizabeth Darkwa, M.D., Maria Pilar Hanson, M.D., Debra Rill, RN, CPNP, Lori Milliron-Hayda, RN, BSN, CNP, Karen Daniel, RN, CPNP, and Nancy Nevin Folino, Registered Dietician.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Greg Eberhart, M.D., Community Coordinator for SOARNet, was recently awarded the "A Child's Voice" Award by the Dayton Children's Medical Center. This award is given every two years to a member of the professional staff who has advocated for children's health issues in the community.

Our Vision

Members of the Southwestern Ohio Ambulatory Research Network (SOAR-Net) are committed to improving the health and welfare of all children and adolescents.

Our Mission

Members of SOARNet collaborate within our unique collection of primary care practices (urban, suburban, rural, and military). We share new knowledge from our studies among network members and others. We aim to make important contributions that enable primary care clinicians to provide high quality, culturally competent care to their young patients.

Our Members

The participating practices of SOARNet have one thing in common; they are diverse.

Children's Health Clinic

Community Child Health Centers

Cornerstone Pediatrics

Indian Ripple Family Health Center

Ollie Davis Family Health Center

Ohio Pediatrics, Inc.

Northwest Dayton Pediatrics *

SOAR-Net Sentinel Editor: Greg Eberhart M.D.

Pediatric Associates of Dayton *

PriMed Physicians of Dayton

Rocking Horse Center

South Dayton Pediatrics

University Medicine-Pediatrics

WPAFB Pediatric Clinic

* - New Members!

We're on the Web!

www.med.wright.edu/soarnet

Contact us for more information:

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