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Screening for Developmental Delays in Brandon VT

Flang Nguyen

Brandon Medical Center – Rutland County

Feb to Mar 2015

Mentors: Dr. George Fjeld, Dr. Kim Kurak

The Problem & Need

- Brandon Medical Center (BMC) currently uses the developmental milestones screening tool built into their electronic medical record to look for developmental delays
- Usage of the tool has been awkward, inconvenient, and unmanageable in the office setting
- BMC, being the main health care provider for newborns, infants, and toddlers of Brandon, VT is looking to improve their screening systems for developmental delays during well-child visits

Public Considerations

- Rutland County has the lowest percentage (67%) of infants and toddlers with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) who received early intervention services (EIP) compared to other regions in Vermont in 2004 (from Vermont's Part C State Performance Plan)
 - 31% of these children receive aid in service provider locations
 - 2% of these children receive aid in school
 - The rest of these children received aid in community based settings
- Most recent data (2012-2013) from the Vermont Part C Annual Performance Report shows percentage of IFPS infants and toddlers in Rutland County who received EIP services (89.8%) was lower than state performance (97%)
- An 2006 article published in *Pediatrics* state that only 23% of primary care physicians report using standardized developmental screening tools
 - 82% of PCP's feel that time constraints is the biggest barrier

Community Perspective

- Dr. *[Name Withheld]*
 - Family medicine physician at Brandon Medical Center
 - Recognizes that the developmental milestone tool in the electronic medical record is hard to use during the patient interview
 - Has been wanting to improve screening methods for developmental delays for the infant and toddler population of Brandon that is not limited by the time constraints of an office visit
- *[Name Withheld]*
 - Director of Early Childhood Education at Rutland County Parent-Child Centers in Brandon and Rutland
 - “Early intervention programs help build the social skills children need to get ready for kindergarten”
 - Therefore “identifying children who may need early intervention is key to securing their futures”
 - She recognizes that barriers (i.e. access to transportation, financial support) prevent developmental delayed children from being identified early

Intervention and Methodology

- A parent-completed questionnaire intended to screen for developmental delays will be created for each well-child visit
- Questionnaires will be a compilation from other developmental screening resources available, including information from the Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics

Questionnaire word document attached below:



Developmental
Milestones and Screenings

Results and Response

- Dr. Kim Kurak
 - “I’ve always had a hard time remembering developmental milestones since I don’t perform many well-child visits. This tool will help facilitate office visits.”
 - “By having parents fill these questionnaires in the waiting room, I will have more time to focus on pediatric patients’ needs.”
- Madeline Denis
 - “Because not every child can have access to daycare centers that does developmental delay screens, it is important to assess early childhood development at any given opportunity. This tool will aid in early detection of developmental delays.”

Effectiveness and Limitations

- This tool is not a substitute for standardized, validated developmental screening tools (Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status)
- This screening tool requires local resources that would deliver Individualized Family Service Plans and early intervention services once developmental delays are detected (e.g. Children's Integrated Services of Vermont)
- Report data was from Rutland County. No specific data on the town of Brandon was located
- Implementing this screening tool requires the support of staff members to give out the questionnaires and digitally scanning them into the electronic medical records. Will need scheduler to have caregiver come in earlier before well-child visit so they can fill out the questionnaire before visit

Recommendations for Future Projects

- Reassess the use of this developmental delay screening tool at Brandon Medical Center and change questionnaires as needed
- Get feedback from parents who have used the tool and adjust tool accordingly
- Have a system where parents could receive these questionnaires in the mail before their child's well-visit appointment so they can have more time to assess their child

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