

Goals

Understand the current process for training in behavior and development for pediatric medical residents.

Develop and implement training opportunities to improve autism competency and early identification of symptoms.

Expand access to live teaching opportunities as residents complete behavioral health observations during their developmental medicine rotation.

Educational Competencies

- Understanding typical developmental milestones, ASD symptoms, and early red flags for developmental delays.
- Increase familiarity with interdisciplinary approaches for providing care for ASD patients.
- Increase familiarity with psychodiagnostic testing for ASD.
- Review components of a psychological evaluation report.
- How to make referrals.

Observation Opportunities during Developmental Medicine Rotation

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| Behavior Consultation Clinic | Nurses & Kids |
| Daycare Observation | Behavioral and Developmental Access Clinic |
| Child Development Watch | Family Consultation Clinic |
| Autism Behavior Clinic | Psychiatry |
| Occupational Therapy | Speech Therapy |
| Physical Therapy | Audiology |
| Child Advocacy Center | Cerebral Palsy Clinic |
| Down Syndrome Clinic | Weight Management |
| Diabetes Collaborative Clinic | Child Development Lecture |

Successes

- Met with faculty are involved in behavior and development training for medical residents to review current educational objectives for developmental medicine rotation.
- Identified clinic days for live teaching when ASD diagnostic testing is being completed.
- Completed 9 live teaching observations.
- Residents had the opportunity to observe 1-3 ASD assessment cases.
- Residents also observed a multidisciplinary assessment of ASD patients presenting with feeding concerns

Challenges

Increasing familiarity with medical resident curriculum

Scheduling

Balancing rotation goals with new objectives

Social distancing

Next Steps

- Collect residents' pre/post ratings of knowledge and confidence for working with ASD.
- Utilize telehealth to continue behavioral health observations while maintaining social distancing guidelines.
- Identify other opportunities for live teaching during behavioral health observations across development.
- Create a library of recorded psychology testing and therapy appointments to allow for more targeted observations of different populations.
- Review sample psychological reports to increase resident's familiarity with psychodiagnostic testing and ability to support families with continued treatment planning.

Background

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has been increasing in prevalence, with current estimates at 1 in 59 children (Baio et al., 2018).
- Early identification and intervention has been shown to improve outcomes across domains for children diagnosed with ASD (Warren et al., 2011).
- Families often present with initial developmental concerns to their primary care physician (Zwaigenbaum, Bauman, Fein, 2015).
- A 2019 study revealed that medical students and pediatric trainees reported low general knowledge of ASD and were unfamiliar with commonly presenting sensory concerns among children with ASD (Austriaco et al., 2019).

References

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