Improving Health Care Quality for Children – The AHRQ Perspective

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Overview

- What AHRQ does
- Data on children’s healthcare quality problems
- Research findings you can use
- Resources for parents, children, and patients in general
What AHRQ Is and Does

- AHRQ is an agency within the Dept of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- AHRQ is a sister agency to (not a part or child of) NIH
- AHRQ’s mission: To improve the safety and quality, efficiency and effectiveness of health care for all Americans
$ indicate funding over the lives of projects funded in years shown
- child total indicates all AHRQ spending on children and youth ex program support
What AHRQ Is and Does

- Supports initiatives to improve quality
  - Health services research
    - Quality and safety improvement implementation research
      - RHIOs and HIT grants in almost all States
  - Partners with consumers, implementers
  - Produces the U.S. National Reports on Healthcare Quality and Disparities
  - Supports US Preventive Services Task Force
    - Recommendations and rationale based on evidence
2006 National Healthcare Quality Report (NHQR) and Disparities Report (NHDR)
Pediatric asthma hospitalization rates vary greatly by state. The highest rate ("worst performing"?) state admits 5 times the number of children for asthma as does the lowest rate ("best performing"?) state.
Massachusetts

What is the Overall Health Care Quality Performance Compared to All States?

How Has That Performance Changed?

Performance Meter:
All Measures

Average
Weak
Very Weak
Strong
Very Strong

— Most Recent Year
— Baseline Year
(baseline year may vary across measures)

All measures performance meter for Massachusetts compared to all States. The performance meter has five categories: very weak, weak, average, strong, and very strong. Compared to all States, for the most recent data year, the performance for Massachusetts for all measures is in the average range. For the preceding data year, performance is in the strong range. The meter represents the State’s balance of below average, average, and above average measures. An arrow pointing to “very weak” means all or nearly all included measures for a State are below average within a given data year. An arrow pointing to “very strong” indicates that all or nearly all available measures for a State are above average within a given data year. A missing arrow or performance meter means there were insufficient data to create the summary measure for this State.

What performance measures comprise this meter? (select this link or the Meter)
How are measures represented by a performance meter? (select this link or Method)
USPSTF

- Updates in progress:
  - Hearing, Newborn: **Screening**
  - Hemoglobinopathies: **Screening**
  - Hypothyroidism, Congenital: **Screening**
  - Phenlyketonuria: **Screening**

- Recent R & Rs:
  - Lead Levels in Childhood and Pregnancy: **Screening** (2006)
  - Lipid Disorders in Children (Cholesterol Abnormalities, Dyslipidemia): **Screening** (2007)
  - Overweight in Children and Adolescents: **Screening** (2005)
  - Speech and Language Delay: **Screening** (2006)
AHRQ Works with States

- Medicaid Care Management Learning Networks
- Medicaid Medical Directors network
- Reducing Disparities in Pediatric Asthma Care
AHRQ works with community leaders

- Secretary’s Transparency in Quality and Cost Initiative
- Value-drive Health Exchanges
- Community Leaders
- Learning Networks
- Details coming soon
- http://www.hhs.gov/valuedriven/
  - http://www.blsmeetings.net/2007ahrqannual/
Contact Us!

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Questions?