



DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERPROFESSIONAL CARE PLAN COMMUNICATION TOOL FOR PEDIATRIC CEREBRAL PALSY CLINICS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

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ABSTRACT: Poster (3G)

- Purpose:** In Pediatrics, many children suffer from chronic medical conditions resulting in significant functional limitations and require complex medical care. Children with Cerebral Palsy have many specialties involved in their care, who work together as an inter-professional healthcare team. Due to the number of team members and the complexity of these patients, it can be challenging to perform detailed assessments and maintain good communication and collaboration. The purpose of this project is to develop an inter-professional tool to provide an overview of the patient's progress from an inter-professional perspective, provide evidence-based management guidance for medical issues and increase the efficiency and flow of cerebral palsy [CP] clinics within Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Methods:** Similar tools implemented in complex care, down syndrome, and spina bifida clinics were reviewed. A focus group was held with team members to determine their opinions regarding clinic flow, areas to improve and suggestions for the clinic tool. The team expressed concern about repetition and overlap of scopes of practices. Review of the literature and guidelines from other centres was conducted on the diagnosis and problems encountered by this patient population. Guidelines from other CP clinics were also utilized. CP clinic was directly observed. A comprehensive checklist was created that included potential medical and functional impacts of CP and evidence-based recommendations for patient management. The tool utilized an inter-professional approach and included specific areas for all team members to provide updates and recommendations. The tool was then distributed to the team for further feedback. Adjustments were made to refine the tool's effectiveness and to better fit the needs of all inter-professional care providers.
- Next steps:** The tool is currently being implemented in a weekly Cerebral Palsy clinic. The allied health professionals and Physicians on the team will complete a post-evaluation satisfaction survey and return it to Dr. Jennifer O'Dea, the Pediatrician on the team. Qualitative results will be assessed to evaluate if the tool was proven to be effective in optimizing patient flow and care.
- Conclusion:** Children with CP have complicated medical and functional problems requiring coordinated care from many inter-professional team members. Utilizing a clinical tool in our CP clinic enhances communication and collaboration within the team in a more cohesive manner to provide continued comprehensive patient centered care.