Session J6

Vaccine Education for Pediatric Residents: Teaching Fundamentals and Improving Quality
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Summary of Topic:
Immunization education for physicians-in-training should include both (1) teaching disease and vaccine fundamentals, as well as (2) having residents learn how to improve their immunization delivery (e.g., increase immunization rates). Neither type of education is standardized across residency programs. This session will highlight programs that fulfill these needs.

Description of Session:
Two panelists will describe their residency-based immunization education programs. Each program is summarized below.

The Collaboration for Vaccination Education and Research (CoVER):
The goal of the CoVER program is to increase pediatric and family medicine residents’ vaccine knowledge and competency for communicating with patients and families about vaccination. After establishing a group of leaders from pediatric and family medicine residency programs, CoVER developed and implemented a competency-based vaccine core curriculum with four brief didactic modules (vaccination fundamentals, vaccine preventable diseases, vaccine safety, vaccine risk communication) plus an end-of-the-year interactive role-playing session. The core curriculum was posted online in an attractive interactive format via commercial educational software (Articulate’s Rise), which will be demonstrated in the workshop. Twenty-six US residency programs are participating in this immunization education randomized controlled trial. In addition to demonstrating the CoVER curriculum, presenters will highlight findings regarding baseline levels of resident vaccine knowledge and hesitancy.

Quality Improvement (QI) through the Academic Pediatric Association (APA):
The APA’s Continuity Research Network (CORNET) is a national practice-based research network composed of pediatric resident continuity practices, in which residents get hands-on experience in primary care. To continue APA’s work to introduce pediatric residents to immunization QI, continuity clinics were recruited in waves via the CORNET email newsletter to participate in HPV vaccination learning collaboratives. To incentivize continuity clinic faculty and residents to participate, Part IV Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credits were offered through the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Family Medicine. All participants were trained via webinar to deliver strong provider recommendations about HPV vaccination at the project’s initiation. All practices were encouraged to implement provider prompts and participants received training on reducing missed opportunities for HPV vaccine at all visit types by implementing such prompts. They also received monthly feedback reports on missed opportunities. Participants had the option of implementing two other evidence-based strategies—standing orders and/or reminder-recall. Each practice was encouraged to form a QI Team, including -- in addition to resident physicians -- at least one attending physician, a nurse, and an additional office staff member. The QI teams were responsible for educating other nurses
and providers in their respective practice about true HPV vaccination contraindications, minimal dosing intervals, vaccinating at all visits, and the importance of following a single agreed upon immunization schedule. During monthly learning collaborative phone calls, clinicians shared best practices. Each video conference, moderated by the study team, began with a specific presentation (e.g., addressing vaccine safety, using standing orders), followed by practices sharing successes and barriers they encountered.

By the end of this session learners will be able to:

-- Describe the key importance of and barriers to immunization education for resident physicians

-- Differentiate between types of immunization education and highlight the importance of each

-- Discuss the Collaboration for Vaccination Education and Research (CoVER) program, its early findings, and it's trajectory

-- Analyze potential short- and long-term public health benefits of supporting Quality Improvement immunization education