

Adolescent Reproductive Health in Primary Care

A Quality Improvement Project from the Partners For Kids' Quality Improvement Coaching Program

Project Overview

The Partners For Kids' Quality Improvement (QI) Coaching Program offers primary care providers a QI project around reproductive health in adolescents, aligning with the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Bright Futures recommendations for adolescent well care. Important aspects of preventive care for your teen patients include discussing sexual history, providing education around contraceptive methods and screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Rationale

According to the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey from 2021, an estimated 30% of high school students are or have been sexually active, though only half reported using a condom at last sexual encounter and only one-third were using a hormonal method of contraceptive at last sexual encounter. Despite the AAP Bright Futures recommendation to screen sexually active females annually for gonorrhea and chlamydia, and to test all adolescents for HIV once during the ages of 15-18, only 5% of the cohort surveyed reported they were tested for STIs in the past year and only 6% reported they had ever been tested for HIV. The PFK Reproductive Health Project aims to increase contraceptive access and STI screening for sexually active females and HIV testing for all adolescents by the time they turn 19.

Project Components

- Improve **provider comfort and confidence** in obtaining a sexual history to identify adolescents in need of reproductive health services
- Support **adherence to AAP Bright Futures recommendations** for annual screening for gonorrhea and chlamydia in sexually active females and one time HIV testing in all adolescents ages 15-18
- Increase **provider knowledge** around contraceptive options for adolescents
- Provide **resources for patient education** on reproductive health including prevention of unintended pregnancy

Practice Benefits

- Adhere to American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines for adolescent well care visits
- Achieve improved patient outcomes
- Eligible for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV credit
- Strengthen QI knowledge and skills to better impact other disease processes
- Customize to fit your practice

Support Resources Available

- Expertise and guidance from Partners For Kids' quality team members
- Training from Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) affiliated adolescent medicine specialists
- Education from, and consultation with, Partners For Kids' medical directors and pharmacists
- Access to Partners For Kids' contraceptive prescribing guidelines and other related resources
- Data support using your practice's electronic health record and claims data

For more information, contact PFKQICoaching@NationwideChildrens.org

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