Increasing the Use of Pediatric Developmental Screening Assessments at the Neighborhood Health Center of Lehigh Valley

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### Background

- The focus is Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and developmental delay screening in children
- The screening questionnaires recommended by the AAP are the MCHAT-R and ASQs
- The Lehigh Valley Neighborhood Health Center (NHC-LV) uses the MCHAT-R irregularly, and does not use the ASQs
- Increasing screening should hopefully lead to increased early intervention and treatment for ASD and developmental delays for NHC-LV’s pediatric patients

### Problem Statement

We hope to improve overall screening percentage of ASD and developmental delays in pediatric populations at the NHC-LV by increasing the use of the MCHAT-R to a 50% goal and implementing the ASQ and reaching at least at 30% use at well child visits.

### Methods

**Inclusion criteria:** Well-child visits between 8-66 months old; Allentown location

**Exclusion criteria:** Same day and follow up visits; Patients with prior ASD or developmental delay diagnoses; Bethlehem and Easton NHC’s

- Retrospective chart review of MCHAT-R use in 2016 (n=64)
- Root cause analysis questionnaire distributed to staff
- Presentation given to staff about MCHAT-R and ASQ, and QI project objectives
- Provided front desk with multilingual copies of MCHAT-R and ASQs
- QI/QI: Rolled out first PDSA cycle
- IT extracted monthly charts from June to Dec (n=149)

### Results

- Overall improvement in screening use in 2017 by 42%.
- ASQs were new for the center, only available in English, and had more questions
- CRNP’s have a heavier pediatric load
- Funding was a barrier, so we could not have access to ASQs in other languages nor provide monetary incentives to well-performing providers
- The varying monthly percentages show the importance of reminders and adjusting changes as the project progresses.
- Targeting the multiple levels of health systems a patient interacted with, from front desk to provider, had the most positive effect.
- A follow up to this project would be a long-term prospective analysis on whether the increased screening lead to improved developmental delay management.

### Discussion/Conclusion

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