

## Division of Public Health- DHFS Developmental Screening Survey

### BACKGROUND/PURPOSE:

Recent research about developmental screening suggests that it is important to detect developmental delays early, as early detection and treatment can improve functional outcomes for children (Sices, 2003). Studies suggest that most screening takes place in the pediatric office (Sand, 2005). Research on methods of developmental screening demonstrates that health care providers that simply observe a child in the office will identify only 30% of children with developmental delays. This detection rate can be increased to 70% by using a validated developmental screening tool (Glascoe, 2000).

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released a policy statement on developmental screening in July 2006 recommending the routine use of validated screening tools to assess a child's development at 9 months, 18 months and 30 months of age (AAP, 2006). A recent survey by the national American Academy of Pediatrics indicates that the majority of pediatricians, about 70%, do not use validated screening tools when assessing a child's development (Sand, 2005). Although the extent of usage of screening tools has been obtained on a national level, this information does not exist for Wisconsin primary care providers. The purpose of this Wisconsin survey is to identify what methods primary care providers in Wisconsin are using to assess child development.

Through an understanding of what methods health care providers are using to assess development, there can be a better identification of the gaps between best practices and clinical practice here in Wisconsin. The results of the survey will allow for the understanding of why these gaps exist, the challenges to bridging these gaps and ways to promote evidence based medicine for developmental screening.

### References

Sices, L, C. Fuedtner, J. McLaughlin, D. Drotar and M. Williams. How do primary care physicians manage children with possible developmental delays? A National Survey with an experimental design. *Pediatrics*; 113-274-282.

Sand, Nina, Michael Silverstein, Frances Glascoe, Vidya Gupta, Thomas Tonniges and Karen G. O'Connor. Pediatricians' reported practices regarding developmental screening: do guidelines work? Do they help? *Pediatrics* 2005; 116; 174-179.

Glascoe, FP. Early Detection of Developmental and Behavioral Problems. *Pediatrics in Review*. 2000;21(8);272-280.

American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement: Identifying Infants and Young Children with Developmental Disorders in the Medical Home: An Algorithm for Developmental Surveillance and Screening. *Pediatrics*. 2006;118;405-420.

## **METHODOLOGY/ANALYSIS**

The attached written survey will be sent to all Wisconsin pediatricians, family physicians, and pediatric nurse practitioners utilizing the Wisconsin Department of Regulations and Licensing and Wisconsin Birth Defects Surveillance and Prevention Program provider database. No follow up reminders or contact will be utilized. Responses will be received by FAX or mail. Responses will be entered into an excel database. Analysis will be completed by the CYSHCN epidemiologist.

### **ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY:**

No provider identifying information will be collected and all responses will remain anonymous. Only aggregated information will be shared.