

Curriculum Development for Pediatric Residents During Child Psychiatry Rotations

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Background

- Prevalence estimates of common mental health disorders including depression, anxiety, and behavioural disorders are estimated to be 12 to 21% in children and youth in Canada (1)
- Pediatricians may identify common mental health issues, they report having trouble managing these conditions
- Royal College has recently mandated a 1 month child psychiatry rotation
- Since July 2023, child psychiatry rotation is offered at 4 pilot sites at UofT
- From informal needs assessment, students reported lack of a standardized learning experience

Research Question and Objectives

Research Questions

1. What are the most useful education resources for pediatric residents for managing child mental health concerns
2. Creating and assessing the usefulness and feasibility of a standardized interview template and guide for child mental health concerns.

Objective: This is one of the efforts to standardize the educational experience of pediatric residents during their child psychiatry rotation.

Methods

Education resources

- **Inclusion criteria:** various media types (web, video, audio, peer-reviewed articles, grey literature papers), english language, after 2014
- **Process:** Hold group interview with residents to ask them to rank resources they used based on helpfulness, accessibility etc. Examples include: Uptodate, Canadian Psychiatry guidelines, Canadian Pediatric guidelines, Podcasts, Youtube channels, Twitter
- **Following interview:** Conduct a focused environmental scan based on findings.

Development of survey/guide:

Create

- Use template commonly used in clinical practice with skeleton of an interview
- Add questions based on guidelines and also those most related to mood, anxiety, and ADHD

Assess

- Receive feedback from multiple stakeholders
- Deliver to residents who will assess template in their rotation experience survey
- Outcome
 - Usefulness
 - Feasibility/timeliness



Discussion

- We predict this project will enhance their residency rotation experience, as well as improve the standardization and accessibility of educational material during the rotation. Furthermore, we believe this will increase residents' knowledge and level of comfort with managing common mental health concerns in children and youth
- Residents in the literature have been surveyed on education resource use and perceived helpfulness. Most residents use digital clinical resources and found these resources helpful. There is also a focus on using novel resources (i.e. podcasts and video streaming platforms) and their helpfulness has been rated higher than traditional resources (i.e. textbooks) (2, 3, 4)
- Thus, if our findings are similar, this implies a need to integrate digital and non-traditional resources in the curriculum. Furthermore, it raises the importance of guiding residents towards trustworthy and peer-reviewed resources.

Future Directions and Goals

- Upon conducting an environmental scan, we plan to share our findings with pediatric residents to provide standardized and peer-reviewed educational materials.
- Furthermore, after development of the interview template and guide, we plan to gather feedback from key stakeholders and continue improving it.
- Through this curriculum development and collaboration, we aim to standardize the experience of pediatric residents in their novel child psychiatry rotation



Image 1: Goals of Curriculum Development

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