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New Report Examines Potential for “Co-Managing” Patient Care Between Pediatricians and Specialists

Farmington, CT - A new report [**"Working Together to Meet Children's Health Needs: Primary and Specialty Care Co-Management,"**](#) examines co-management as an approach for improving children's health care access and delivery in Connecticut. A rising demand for specialty pediatric care coupled with a declining supply of specialists has resulted in decreased access to specialty care for children. Co-management or "shared care" enables primary care providers to deliver more care to patients for certain conditions that otherwise would have been immediately referred to a specialist.

"Co-management is a health care innovation with enormous potential for addressing patient access to care and health care costs," said report co-author and Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut's (CHDI) Vice President of Health Initiatives, Lisa Honigfeld.

"Equipping primary care providers to treat select conditions in consultation with specialists means that more children will receive the care they need, when they need it, and in their medical home."

The report is part of CHDI's IMPACT series and includes a review of three studies in Connecticut testing the co-management of:

1. pediatric concussion
2. five low acuity pediatric conditions: migraine, chronic fatigue syndrome, Lyme disease, voiding problems and hematuria
3. mild to moderate anxiety and depression in children and adolescents



"Providers participating in these studies reported high rates of satisfaction with co-managed care", said lead author and Associate Clinical Chair of Pediatrics at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, [**Karen Rubin, M.D.**](#) "They said they liked participating in a new model of care that allowed them to provide more care for their patients."

The IMPACT closes with recommendations for expanding co-management to more conditions, engaging families in developing and evaluating co-management programs, and working with public and private insurers to develop a business model that supports co-managed care.

For more on co-management of child and adolescent anxiety and depression, see [**Issue Brief 21: Addressing Child & Adolescent Depression & Anxiety in Pediatric Primary Care: A Co-Management Approach \(4/30/13\)**](#). For information about CHDI's initiatives to integrate behavioral health and primary care, visit <http://www.chdi.org/ourwork-signature-behavioral.php>. For information about CHDI, please visit www.chdi.org or contact Julie Tacinelli at tacinelli@uchc.edu or 860-679-1519.

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