**Title**

Improving GP assessment of child development: results of a stepwise intervention

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**Background**

Early and regular developmental surveillance can improve children's development through early intervention. Screening tools that incorporate parent concerns about their children's development can be used as an indicator of developmental risk. One such tool, already routinely employed by child and family nurses, is Parent Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS). PEDS facilitates parent discussion and communication between providers but has not been routinely used in general practice.

**Aims**

To evaluate the effect of PEDS training and dissemination in a practice based QI-activity to increase the assessment of child development during GP vaccination visits with children aged 12 months to 5 years

**Method**

Pre and post intervention audits of vaccination visits (excluding travel vaccines) for children aged 1-5 years attending a large GP clinic located in a socioeconomically deprived area of Melbourne. The whole-of-practice intervention was introduced in two stages: Step 1 incorporated staff-training (receptionists, nurses and GPs) and the introduction of PEDS questionnaires into relevant vaccination visits. Step 2, after three months, placed computerised prompts and other practical reminders in the patient-reception area. An audit of the clinical record measured rates of documentation of child developmental assessment at baseline, 3 months and 6 months following intervention.

**Results**

Three months after PEDS introduction and training, documentation of child-developmental assessment increased by 16.3% (95% CI 6.6-26.2 p=0.001) from baseline. Analysis of results following the second stage of the intervention (available July 2018) will indicate if improvements are sustained, increased or decreased.

**Conclusion**

Training and dissemination of PEDS questionnaires in a whole of practice QI activity can significantly improve documentation and assessment of young children’s development during immunisation visits. New opportunities, following state-wide adoption of influenza vaccinations for children, may further improve the early identification of developmental delays.