

VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

April 24, 2020 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers*

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Practice Issues – Developmental Screening: On-line ASQ

Breena Holmes, MD, FAAP, VDH: This is one of the many innovations we do not want to go backwards on after we return to the post-COVID state. The ASQ Online Enterprise System, a centralized online portal for developmental screening results for Vermont's children, will be permanent going forward after COVID-19 pandemic restrictions are relaxed. This is a great adjunct to your telemedicine check-ups currently and in the future.

We understand the biggest barrier was double data entry in both EHR and UDS systems. We wonder if it would make things simpler to have an online ASQ run through the Help Me Grow (HMG) system that would directly enter and dump the data into the registry and give you access to it when talking to the families about the results. Families would be able to complete this at home or on tablets in the waiting/exam rooms. The screens would be scored through the portal and you would be able to create direct contact for the families to the resources available. Link to ASQ online: <https://www.asqonline.com/family/a9173c>.

This is a one-click family-friendly screening tool. We are lucky to have two child development specialists at HMG/ VT 2-1-1 who are skilled at connecting with families regarding developmental issues. It's nice for families to digest the explanations of the screening tool in the context of their own homes. It is also easier for parents to process and helps them understand it in the context of their child's age.

The online screens that are automatically put into the registry have been consented and authorized through patient and parent release forms. Parents who do not want their child's screening in the registry are mailed a paper screen instead and have been advised to bring the paper screening with them to their appointment. Please contact Dr. Holmes or Dr. Davis if you want to pilot ASQ-online in your office. It has been cleared through Medicaid colleagues and commercial insurance, if the screens are done online, then it's the interpretation that is coded as a 96110. When you're in the ACO, it's a claims-based measure to get credit through OneCare.

Wendy Davis, MD, FAAP, VCHIP: Thanks to this group for raising the issue about reimbursement due to performing developmental screenings via telehealth and telephone. The Medicaid administrator has determined that these screens are covered and will appear in an updated reference chart later today.

Lisa Gannon, Medical Assistant, Timberlane Pediatrics, reported they have been trying to get all of their patients enrolled in the patient portal and families have been receptive. They have found ASQ to be a stumbling block. Since so many of us are working from home, Timberlane staff have been able to reach out and do the ASQ screening over the phone. It's difficult and not ideal, as some have prepaid minute phones or their connections are not so great, which makes it tough to walk them through the questions and activities. The virtual ASQ sounded like a wonderful thing and Timberlane North was just about to pilot it through HMG in February. They were able to convert to telehealth visits pretty quickly in mid-March but are not up and running on the online ASQ.

*Note: This is a paraphrased synopsis of the call and is not a word-for-word transcription.

Lisa watched a webinar offered on the ASQ webpage called “How Providers and Parents Partner Together to Use ASQ in a Virtual Environment.” It is pretty interesting to see all the different ways to connect with families to do the screening. It also sounds like a useful tool, and they are going to move forward and try it out. They are hoping to place a link on their web page so families can try it out that way. As far as Lisa understands, ASQ is copyright-protected, so Timberlane is not able to build it into their EHR system or on their website as a form.

Michelle Perron, MD, Timberlane Pediatrics, stated in the chat section that the ASQ is also a link in their patient portal. They were working on this pilot project at their North Avenue office only, but will probably quickly institute it across all 3 offices.

Elizabeth Gilman, HMG, reported practices that do become programs under the online system can have complete control over the screens. HMG will help develop the landing page with the practice’s logo. It’s a direct URL and families will go directly to the practice’s online screening system. Please reach out to Elizabeth, Janet Kilburn (VDH), or VCHIP if your practice wants your own system within HMG ASQ online.

Questions/Discussion

Q: The AAP Briefing e-mail had reported this yesterday: Health Day (4/22) reports that “while children seem to have been largely spared from the worst of the coronavirus pandemic, a new study suggests it’s possible that up to 50,000 U.S. children might end up hospitalized with COVID-19 by the end of 2020.” Moreover, the researchers estimated “if around 25% of the U.S. population has been infected with COVID-19 by the end of this year, it’s likely that more than 5,000 children and teens would be critically ill and require mechanical ventilation.” The findings were published in the Journal of Public Health Management & Practice.” Any comments from infectious disease?

A: William Raszka, MD, UVM Children's Hospital & Larner COM Department of Pediatrics: I will have to look at the model and assumptions. That seems outside the current trends. The article is based on April 6, 2020. There were 74 children who had been reported admitted to PICUs in 19 states. Yikes. I would be very, very careful using this data and set up assumptions.

A: David Nelson, MD, UVM Pediatrics ED: That doesn't seem to have happened in China or Italy. Are they assuming a genetic shift in the virus?

A: Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP: I can't specifically address this, but we also expect information soon from the AAP perinatal group (today possibly) on the first 25 babies born in the U.S. to COVID-19 positive mothers.

A: Judy K. Orton, MD, Green Mountain Pediatrics: Definitely disconcerting to see since we have started to see an uptick of families that want to "wait" until their under 2-year-old baby/child checkups. We've been able to convince most but not all.

A: Becca Bell, MD, UVMMC: I am trying to look at the study now and it seems suspect to me. It does not look like the modeling takes into account the underlying chronic conditions. I can check in with folks from the VPS listserv to see what they think about this.

Q: Is UVMMC planning to be back with fully in-person visits/capacity by 5/15?

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VDH: To my knowledge, no decisions have been made about in-person restart. See the key driver diagram from yesterday's call (in the email from Dr. Davis last night), which outlines a safe reopening.

A: William Raszka, MD, UVM Children's Hospital & Larner COM Department of Pediatrics: UVMMC is planning a phased in approach for in-person visits. One model is to begin next week. I think they really want to make this system wide with good communication, etc. The key driver diagram (KDD) presented yesterday is a helpful framework.

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A: Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP: The KDD did show a goal date of 5/15, but they are now using a QI approach to identify appropriate metrics, etc.

A: Michelle Dorwart, MD, UVMMC: That's what I was confused by, the 100% clinic capacity by 5/15.

A: Lewis First, MD, UVMMC: I noted that the KDD shown yesterday was only a draft, and as Dr. Davis pointed out, we are using QI principles to determine when we are ready for "necessary " patients to be seen in the office.

Q: Once they put in the ASQ information, how does the clinic see the results?

A: Elizabeth Gilman, HMG: Offices that pilot the online ASQ through Help Me Grow (HMG) will have their own URL and link to their practice.

A: Michelle Perron, MD, Timber Lane Pediatrics: I believe it is emailed to the practice site and also a shared platform.

A: Janet Kilburn, HMG: Practices have access to the back end of the system to see results, to download a PDF of the screen into the EHR, etc.. Elizabeth can give a demo to interested practices. The next demo on their website is on 5/13/20.

Q: Can you repeat the information you mentioned about how to have the ASQ results make their way into our EMR without our having to enter the data by hand?

A: Michelle Perron, MD, Timber Lane Pediatrics: You can upload the PDF to the EHR.

C: I had a family tell me that the Orange County Parent Child Center (OCPCC) will be open beginning of May.