

Michigan Strategies to Improve Access to Services for Children & Youth with Epilepsy

The Pediatric Telemedicine Initiative

More than 3,500 children enrolled in the Michigan Children Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) program have been diagnosed with epilepsy. Of this total, approximately 20% live in rural Michigan counties. Access to pediatric epilepsy specialists and other resources in these rural and underserved areas is often extremely limited or non-existent.

How is access to care improved with this project?

Telemedicine

Four telemedicine sites in underserved and rural areas currently provide access for children and youth with epilepsy (CYE) to epileptologists at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital (University of Michigan) and Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Telemedicine equipment, purchased with grant funds, enables the visit to occur in real-time with the specialist. The specialist connects with the primary care doctor, the patient, and their family who are at their local clinic site in an exam room equipped with a video monitor and camera. Six new sites are planned to be implemented during 2016.

Family-Provider Partnership

Families are involved at all levels of the project. Families participate in advisory committees, provide direct feedback about telemedicine visits, and are supported through training and education opportunities. This multi-faceted involvement helps families and their providers communicate better and obtain the best care for their child.

Transitioning

Patients are prepared for transition from pediatric to adult providers during pediatric appointments with the help of transition tools and resources. Families of CYE are able to prepare and successfully transition from a "pediatric" model of care where parents make most decisions to an "adult" model of care where youth take full responsibility for decision-making. MDHHS provides training and resources to providers to support these efforts.

Genetic Services

Access to genetic counseling is expanded for families of CYE. Epileptologists refer families to genetic specialists, and if needed, these genetic services are made available via telemedicine. Additionally, a partnership with the Region 4 Genetics Collaborative builds awareness among genetic specialists about the CYE project and telemedicine options.

Awareness & Education

Learn more about this project from MDHHS/CSHCS or one of our partners:

- ◆ Information about current telemedicine sites: MDHHS at (517) 241-5071
- ◆ Parent resources: Family Center at 1-800-359-3722
- ◆ Parent resources, training, education: Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan at 1-800-377-6226



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