

Optimising clinical intake for children with developmental delay

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Abstract

- Developmental delay in children
 - When young children are slower to develop physical, emotional, social and communication skills than expected, it's called developmental delay
 - Developmental delay can show up in the way children move, communicate, think and learn, or behave with others. When two or more of these areas is affected, it might be called global developmental delay
- The foundation for achieving outcomes for children with developmental delay begins with identifying needs early, establishing clinical partnerships with the child and parent/caregiver and delivering clinical services as early as possible following receipt of a referral



Outcomes

- Timely identification and commencement of clinical services for children with developmental delay
 - Driven by allied health professionals
 - They identified the need
- Working collaboratively with allied health clinicians, parents and families and researchers
 - Using a partnership approach
 - Bringing expertise together

The iREWARDS Instrument
An initial service response checklist

Client Name: _____ Caregiver name: _____ UR No: _____ Date: _____

Intervention and engagement <small>Overview of key findings, priority setting processes of care (services available, timeframes, other support options), contact person. (Initial service response)</small>	Comments.....
Reason for referral <small>Overview of intended purpose of referral, areas requiring focus, areas doing well.</small>	Comments.....
Expectations of parent/carer <small>Overview of current and future requirements, strategies to assist, what to continue doing, where to from here.</small>	Comments.....
Worries or any other concerns <small>Overview of additional concerns such as sleep, toileting, eating, behaviours, play; use of red flag document.</small>	Comments.....
Assessment for child's health needs <small>Overview of any health or medical needs of the child with prompts for hearing, dental, vision and other medical if indicated.</small>	Comments.....
Relevant information <small>Overview of any other information (such as key events, things in child's life) with prompts for living situation, trauma, Parenting orders, Guardianship, mental health.</small>	Comments.....
Demographic information <small>Overview of complete demographic details including Aboriginality.</small>	Comments.....
Stakeholders <small>Overview of other people involved including those who have noticed these issues, involvement of other service providers, support at home. Only for targeted cases.</small>	Comments.....

Client Name: _____ Caregiver name: _____ UR No: _____ Date: _____

Partnership Process

Initial intervention provided / recommended

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Follow up required

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Additional supports identified?	Yes	No	N/A
Guardian consents to sharing of information?	Yes	No	N/A
Service request submitted?	Yes	No	N/A
Key stakeholders informed of outcome?	<u>Yes</u>	No	N/A

Trial Consent
Family informed re trialling of new initial service response process

Guardian consents to further contact re trial:	Yes	No	N/A
Copy of partnership process provided to family:	Yes	No	

Clinician Name: _____ Profession: _____ Signature: _____

Further enquiries please phone: _____

Outcomes

- Improved timeliness of access to allied health services across regional Local Health Network in SA Health as demonstrated by:
 - Reduced first clinical response times from a mean of 68 to 29 days (57% improvement)
 - Maximum waiting times of 551 days reduced to 201 days, (64% improvement)
 - Pre implementation identification of parental/caregiver concerns was 56%, and post implementation the client centred practice was 88%, an improvement of 27%.



Addressing Health Inequities

- Australians in rural and regional Australia have poor access to health care
 - This research addressed this issue by improving timely access to children with developmental delay and their families and communities
- Lack of timely identification and early intervention can have ongoing impact
 - This research by enabling early intervention and reducing waiting times contributed to positive outcomes, improvement in client centred care and minimised health care burden



Implementation / Translation to Practice

- Complex healthcare challenges require innovative thinking
 - Allied health can be at the forefront of innovation
- Importance of a partnership approach
 - Clinicians, parents and researchers
 - Research evidence and clinical practice
 - Developers and users
 - Etcetera
- Achieving change in health care requires
 - Vision and funding (looking at the long term, no fear of failure)
 - Communication and support (resistance and fear)
 - Leadership support (value of project)
 - Local change champions (local point of contact)
 - Knowledge tool (helps the “how to”)
 - Embedding in systems (data collection and reporting)
 - Ongoing evaluation and improvement (ability to refine and review)

