Identifying the most common cause of the need for treatment of caries under GA for children served by dental programs using a SN/SDF treatment protocol

Sentinel Event Review
Definition

A *Sentinel Event* is **defined** by The Joint Commission (TJC) as any unanticipated **event** in a healthcare setting resulting in death or serious injury to a patient...
For Example

- The patient has a routine arthroscopy of the knee, and is hospitalized two days later for a fulminant nosocomial infection with VRSA.

- A child with newly diagnosed type 1 diabetes hospitalized for stabilization of blood glucose levels has a near fatal hypoglycemic attack.

- An 18 months old child with high fever, irritability and lethargy is found to have advanced H. influenzae type b meningitis.
What Do We Want to Know About the Child with Meningitis?

• Was the child properly immunized?
• If no, did the parents intentionally avoid immunizations?
• If no, where did the child spend most of his time: home, daycare, Early Head Start?
• Had the child had any medical clinic visits?
• If yes, were they for Well Child Clinic or acute care?
• Is there evidence in the medical record that the staff recognized that the child was not immunized?
What Do We Want to Know About the Child with Meningitis? (continued)

• If the child had Well Child visits, did the child receive other immunizations?

• If for acute care, was the child’s immunization status recognized?

• If yes, was immunization deferred for some reason?

• Etc.
A 28 Month Old Child Requires Restorations and Extractions for Advanced Caries

• “Between 1996 and 1999, the rate of hospitalization for dental caries in children younger than 6 years of age was 2/1000 (0.2%).

Missed Opportunities

Abstract

Employing a literature review approach, this article explores the evidence about missed opportunities for childhood immunizations, their impact on immunization rates, and potential solutions. It concludes that missed opportunities contribute significantly to the underimmunization of children. A concerted effort to reduce missed opportunities, particularly those that are relatively easy to eliminate, could yield measurable improvements in immunization levels of children. Missed opportunities for vaccinations have been found to occur in virtually all primary care settings, and their impact is greater for populations having low baseline immunization rates. Coverage levels could be improved by up to 30% in many settings by eliminating missed opportunities. Major reasons for missed opportunities include providers lacking knowledge about immunization status, provider or practice
Missed opportunities occur in virtually all primary care settings...
I’ll Start with False Assumptions for $500...
Reducing the Number of Children Born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

What is the $500,000 false assumption...
There Are Several False Assumptions

• The mother doesn’t care
• The attack rate is too low to use an individualized approach
• An efficacious primary prevention approach requires the mother to stop drinking
What’s My Point?
What’s My Point?

A child requiring restorations and extractions under general anesthesia served by a dental program using an SN/SDF protocol is a systems failure.
Regrettably…

We are the system that’s failing. A ‘missed opportunities’ review would identify the exact points of failure. A modest amount of resources could remedy most of these failures.
This issue is solvable...