Preparation for Emergency Patient Assessment in the Outpatient Setting

Joseph R. Hageman, MD

In this issue of Pediatric Annals, guest editor Dr. Jennifer Setlik, a Pediatric Emergency and Pain Specialist, and her colleagues present thoughtful and practical articles about the assessment of infants, children, and adolescents in the preparation and anticipation of emergencies and management in the outpatient setting. The articles highlight the various aspects of preparation, assessment, and management, including office readiness, nonaccidental trauma, evaluation of physical abuse, sudden infant death syndrome, and other concerns in a pediatric emergency setting.

I have experience with the emergent assessment and stabilization of patients who have medically complex health concerns, which can be challenging in the inpatient setting. To help make the process more seamless, however, having an office plan in place is a necessity. In addition, for pediatric professionals who focus more on acute problems, it is important to remember to provide anticipatory guidance to patients and their families.

Dr. Daniel Lum (Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital, Northwestern University), a veteran pediatrician, is helping to build a community network of independent pediatric practitioners; Dr. Lum and his colleagues are also working to advance communication and collaborative education throughout the network to improve patient care. The overall goal is for hospital-based and ambulatory providers to work collaboratively by using the available educational and research tools (quality improvement and clinical) to improve patient care and outcomes.

HEALTHY BABY/HEALTHY CHILD

Journal editorial board member, Dr. Denise Dowd, writes about vehicular hyperthermia with infants and toddlers in this month’s “Healthy Baby/Healthy Child” column; the article focuses on how to prevent vehicular hyperthermia in a culture of parents who are busy and often preoccupied.