

Royal College of General Practitioners and Warwick Medical School
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Abstract Submission Form

PRESENTER'S DETAILS		Top Five Poster and Pitch
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Category Audit		
PRESENTATION DETAILS		
Authors Hina Shahid	Title of Study Children on a Child Protection Plan: what do we do as a practice to decrease the impact of significant parental problems on the children?	
Acknowledgements: Dr Monica Green and Miss Amanda Shabana		
<p>What's the problem you are tackling? Children on a 'Child Protection Plan' have a higher chance of having a parent with adverse health factors including domestic abuse, mental health conditions and substance abuse. These factors can have a significant impact on the child's health and extra measures should be taken to ensure efficient safeguarding for vulnerable child patients. Improved recording and coding on children's records allow GP's to rapidly consider or identify any negative effects of adverse parental factors on the child's mental or social health during consultations and encounters within general practice.</p>		
<p>How did/will you do it? The RCGP/NSPCC Safeguarding Children Toolkit for General Practice outlines the following relevant 'reflective tools':</p> <p>Reflective Tool 6b: 'Record keeping, identification, coding, flagging and risk assessment of vulnerable children and families'. Is there a system in place for coding vulnerabilities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children on a Child Protection Plan. • Children living in a household where there is domestic abuse. • Children living in a household where there is substance abuse. • Children living in a household where their parent suffers from a mental health condition. • Is there a flagging system in place for vulnerable children? <p>Reflective Tool 6f: 'Exercise to consider the impact of adverse parental factors such as domestic abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues on parenting ability'.</p> <p>An audit was carried out at Broomfield Park GP Surgery in July 2016 to assess if parental factors were clearly flagged and coded on children's health records who are on a Child Projection Plan. The audit standard was set at 100%; that all children with adverse parental factors should have an alert/flag on their record. Firstly, all parents of children on a 'Child Protection Plan' at the practice had their EMIS records examined to identify if there were any records of adverse parental factors. Secondly, 55 children on a child protection plan at the practice had their records cross-examined to assess if the issues were clearly flagged so that all practitioners seeing the patient is made aware of the issues.</p>		

What did you find?

- 21/34 parents who have a child on a Child Protection Plan have adverse parental factors = 62%
- 10/34 households have a history of domestic abuse
- 19/34 households had a parent with significant mental health issues
- 3/21 households had a 'patient warning' on the children's record about a history of domestic abuse, risk of domestic abuse or assault
- 9/21 households had documentations in the children's notes about parental factors
- 100% of children on a Child Protection Plan have an alert on their record = **standard met**
- Only 14% of children's records who live in a household with adverse parental factors have an alert/flag on the child's record = **below standard**
- 9/21 children's records had documentation in the child's notes about parental factors = **43%**

Why does this matter?

1. Adverse parental factors may impede parenting ability and affect their children negatively
2. Any potential abuse on the child can be identified by accurately flagging their records and therefore ensure support and an early intervention
3. In general practice, any encounter is an opportunity for a child to potentially disclose any abuse, concerns, poor health or social circumstances.

In view of the above, the main recommendations for changes in practice were:

- Place alerts on all children on a Child Protection Plan who have adverse parental factors.
- Consider meetings with health visitors if there is a disclosure of a new episode of domestic abuse, school teachers or with the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to further mitigate any impact of parental problems on the children.
- Re-audit to ensure relevant documentation has been added to children's records and to complete the audit cycle.