Collaborative Care of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: An Innovative Partnership to Serve Rural Pediatric Patients

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Abstract

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a common behavioral health disorder in childhood that causes significant impairments in quality of life, home relationships, and school success. Despite a substantial evidence base and corresponding practice guidelines established by the American Academy of Pediatrics that support use of behavioral therapy to treat ADHD, affected patients infrequently receive therapy. This article will review the causes of underuse of behavioral therapy and methods to overcome these barriers such as integrating behavioral health care, thereby creating a pediatric patient-centered medical home. Additionally, a novel practice model of a behavioral health care collaboration being piloted in a rural pediatric office will be presented, including methods to screen, assess, and treat ADHD patients and families within the comfort of the primary care office.