

SCREENING PRACTICES FOR SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AMONG PHYSICIANS IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

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INTRODUCTION

Social determinants of health (SDH) defined as the “conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life” are forces that exert important influence on health inequities, more especially in the pediatric population.

OBJECTIVE

This research aims to determine the practices of physicians in screening the social determinants of health of patients in a tertiary hospital for children in Metro Manila.

METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive survey-based study done in a pediatric tertiary hospital, mainly utilizing a survey tool adapted from “SDH Screening in the Inpatient Setting” by Schwartz, et al. (2020).

RESULTS/ FINDINGS

Of the 137 respondents, more than half of participants screened for at least 1 SDH and most frequently screened were school and/or school services; income source; parent education/literacy; and access to healthcare. Some barriers to screening were discomfort in bringing up the SDH need, the focus on acute illness, and the short hospital stay, while enablers to screening included more training, access to resources that offered help, or prompts in the health record. Only few felt competent about screening and most agreed that it should be included in formal medical education.

KEYWORDS

social determinants of health, inpatient screening



CONCLUSION

Pediatricians are becoming more aware of the importance of SDH screening in their inpatients. Improvements in training, knowledge on linkage to resources, and systems such as inclusion of SDH screening in the health record and providing validated tools for screening may enable more SDH screening in inpatients.