Efforts at Bending the Curve:
Tackling the Problem of Pediatric Frequent Fliers

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Monday, December 8, 4:00-5:00 PM
HSLC 1335

Live stream will be available at live.videos.med.wisc.edu
Refreshments will be available at 3:30 pm. We also welcome you to stay for conversation and dessert after the lecture.

One of the primary challenges of healthcare reform involves "bending the cost curve" in Medicaid and Medicare. In Medicaid, 4% utilize 50% of the health care resources. Of the resources utilized by the 4%, emergency department visits for non-emergency issues and avoidable hospitalizations account for a disproportionate amount of the healthcare costs.

Many across the country have focused their efforts on addressing the reduction of unnecessary ED visits and repeated hospitalizations. NICH, or Novel Interventions in Children's Healthcare, is one of those efforts. NICH was developed by Dr. Michael A. Harris, a pediatric psychologist that targets the triple aim of improving health, improving care, and reducing costs in children who are the highest utilizers of healthcare resources.

To date, after participating in NICH, the outcome data have shown:

• 50% reduction in ED visits
• 70% reduction in hospital day stays
• 50% reduction in healthcare costs

The aim of Dr. Harris's talk is to discuss NICH and the impact it has had on reducing ED visits and repeated hospitalizations.

About Michael Harris

Dr. Michael Harris works with families of children and adolescents with a variety of complex and chronic medical conditions with special expertise in working with families of youth with diabetes. His research has involved the adaptation, implementation, and evaluation of a family-based psychosocial intervention for adolescents with chronic illness. More recently, he received funding from Oregon Medicaid to provide comprehensive care to youth with diabetes who are repeatedly hospitalized for diabetic ketoacidosis.

Dr. Harris has received funding for his research from the Diabetes Research & Training Centers, National Institutes of Health, and the American Diabetes Association. His research has been published in Diabetes Care, The Diabetes Educator, Diabetes Spectrum, Clinical Diabetes, and many other peer-reviewed journals. He also co-authored with Drs. K. Hood and J. Weissberg-Benchell "Teens with Diabetes: A Clinician's Guide" published by the American Diabetes Association.