



Improving Primary Care Follow-up after Pediatric Hospitalization

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INTRODUCTION

Follow-up with a primary care physician following hospitalization plays a critical role in maintaining the health of pediatric patients.

Multiple barriers have been reported to explain historically low attendance at follow up appointments

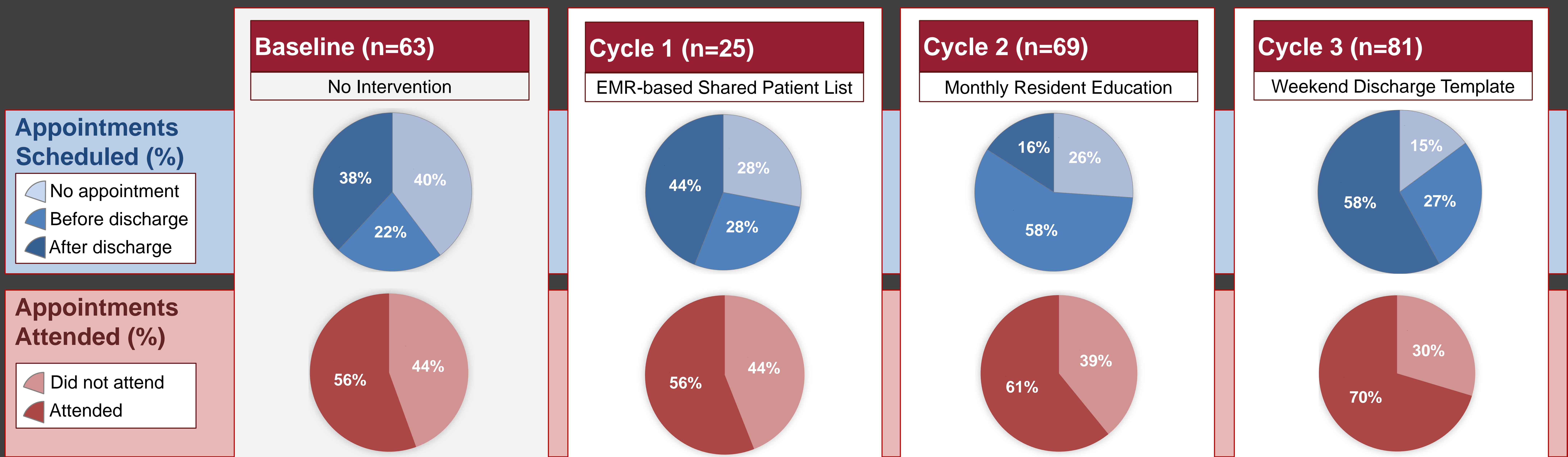
- Lack of transportation, difficulty making appointments with their doctors' offices, forgetting appointments, scheduling errors^{1,2}

AIMS

This quality improvement (QI) project aimed to improve the percentage of primary care clinic follow up within 7 days of hospital discharge from the general pediatric inpatient service.



FIGURE 1: PSDA CYCLES AND RESULTS



RESULTS

- There was a statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) increase in the percent of appointments scheduled and attended throughout the PSDA cycles from baseline
- There was no significant difference in percentage of appointments scheduled for weekend discharges or weekday discharges

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

- The results suggest that the implemented interventions were effective at improving primary care follow up
 - Improved follow-up augments continuity of care, allowing primary care physicians to address medication concerns, provide education on the discharge diagnosis and monitor health
- Next Steps**
- Contacting families to identify self-reported barriers to attendance
 - Arranging SoonerRide to follow up appointments prior to discharge for families who lack dependable transportation

REFERENCES

1. McPherson ML, Lairson DR, Smith O'B, Brody, BA, Jefferson LS. Noncompliance with Medical Follow-up after Pediatric Intensive Care. PEDIATRICS 109(6):e94 · June 2002
2. Kiefe C, Harrison PL. Post-Hospitalization Follow-up Appointment-Keeping among the Medically Indigent Journal of Community Health 18 (5):271–282. October 1993