



Needs

First, no formal education exists to train the Physician Assistant (PA) entering Pediatric Emergency Medicine within the Children's National Health System (CNHS). Second, a PA is needed in leadership. Third, there is a need for the PA to practice independently, providing care in a Level One Trauma Center for over 120,000 pediatric patients per year.

Purpose

The purpose of the curriculum is to create a PA capable of independent practice. This is accomplished in three ways. First, a structured learning platform is created, focusing on Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) topics. Second, the PA and physician enter into a collaborative relationship for one year, allowing the PA to develop and practice evidenced-based medicine under supervision, promoting team-based care. Third, begin to objectively track competence in applying evidenced-based medicine concepts, procedures and physical exam skills.

Objectives

1. Develop and implement a 12 month curriculum of PEM exclusive topics.
2. Successfully train the PA capable of independent practice.
3. Practice team-based care.
4. Provide transparent feedback, guiding professional development.
5. Determine competency associated with PA independent practice in a pediatric emergency setting.

Description of Curriculum

The curriculum is created on the foundation of PA and physician collaboration. The PA advances through a 12-month program, developing into a clinically-competent Pediatric Emergency Medicine PA capable of seeing the low acuity patient independently.

NAME	TIME	COMPONENTS
Pre-employment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory online modules • Review of suturing technique
Orientee	0-2mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PALS completion • Weekly submission PEM online education modules/ • Initiation team based care with physicians • Shadow shift mentoring with PA and daily feedback • Completion of physical exam and procedural skills check off • Participation in wound care workshop • Chart review with Lead PA
Provisional	2-12mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly PEM online CME submission with discussion • Team-based care for each patient • Ongoing team based care • Quarterly Journal Club article summation • Quarterly chart review • Oral case presentation • 3, 6, 12 month competency review • Transition to Junior PA capable of independent practice

Assessment

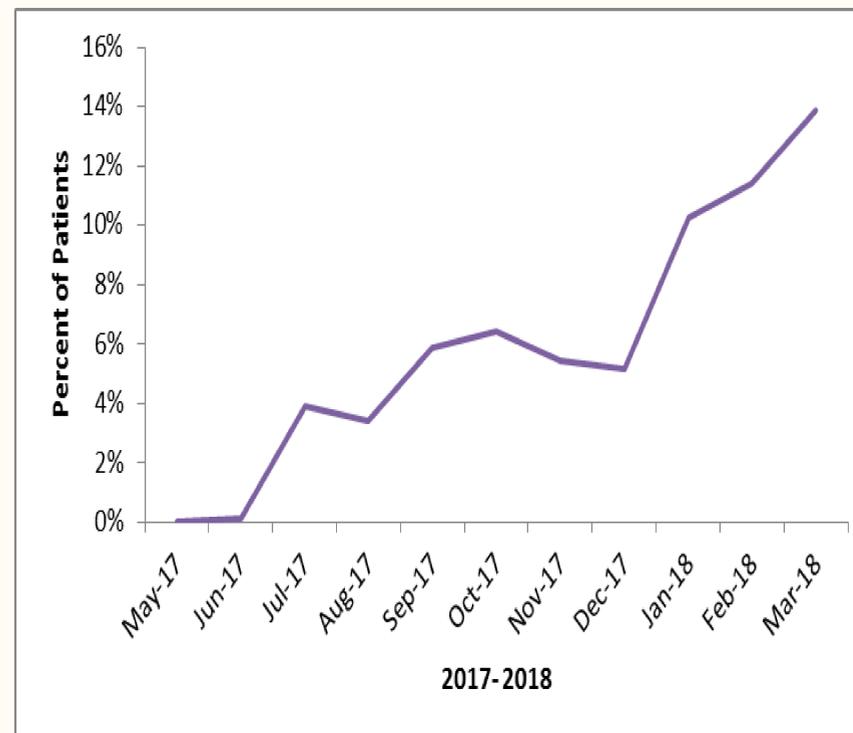


Figure 1: Low acuity patients treated independently by PAs

Results

Eight PA's have successfully completed the curriculum, seeing 14% of the low acuity patient population after 6 months of implementation. There is departmental acceptance of the curriculum and independent practice. There are plans to continue growing the PA program.

Future Needs

1. CNHS is developing guidelines for PA independent practice encompassing the medium acuity patient.
2. CNHS is developing a PEM specific curriculum designed for the PA beyond one year.