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Incorporating Environmental Health into Pediatric Medical and Nursing Education

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Running Title: Training in Pediatric Environmental Health

Key words: pediatrics, nursing, education, environmental health, medical student, resident, nursing student

Abbreviations:

AA – Associate of Arts degree
AACN - American Association of Colleges of Nursing
AAMC - Association of American Medical Colleges
AANP - American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
AAP - American Academy of Pediatrics
ABMS - American Board of Medical Specialties
ABP – American Board of Pediatrics
ABPM – American Board of Preventive Medicine
ACGME - Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
ACNM - American College of Nurse Midwives
AFPNP - Association of Faculties of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Programs
AHA - American Hospital Association
AMA - American Medical Association
ANCC - American Nurses Credentialing Center
AOEC - Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics
APA – Ambulatory Pediatric Association
APHA – American Public Health Association
ATSDR - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
BSN – Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree
CCNE - Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
CEHN – Children's Environmental Health Network
CME – continuing medical education
CMSS - Council of Medical Specialty Societies
EOH – environmental and occupational health
EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
IOM – Institute of Medicine
LCME - Liaison Committee on Medical Education
NAPNAP - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
NBME - National Board of Medical Examiners
NCC - National Certification Corporation for Obstetrical, Gynecological, and Neonatal Nurses
NCLEX-RN - National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses
NCSBN - National Council of State Boards of Nursing
NEETF – National Environmental Education and Training Foundation

NIEHS - National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
NLNAC - National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
NONPF - National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
PEHSUs - Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units
PCNB – Pediatric Nursing Certificate Board
PNP - Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
RRC - Residency Review Committee
RN - Registered Nurse
SPN – Society of Pediatric Nurses
US – United States
USMLE™ - United States Medical Licensing Examination™

Abstract

Introduction

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Appendix 1: Medical and Nursing Education Workgroups

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Abstract

Pediatric medical and nursing education currently lacks the environmental health content necessary to appropriately prepare pediatric health care professionals to prevent, recognize, manage, and treat environmental exposure-related disease. Leading health institutions have recognized the need for improvements in health professionals' environmental health education. Parents are seeking answers about the impact of environmental toxicants on their children. Given the biological, psychological, and social differences between children and adults, there is a need for environmental health education specific to children. The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, in partnership with the Children's Environmental Health Network, created two workgroups, one with expertise in medical education and one with expertise in nursing education. The workgroups reviewed the process of moving from an undergraduate student to a professional in order to assess where, in those respective processes, pediatric environmental health could be more emphasized. The medical education workgroup recommended increasing education about children's environmental health in the medical school curricula, in residency training and in continuing medical education. The group also recommended the expansion of fellowship training in children's environmental health. Similarly, the nursing workgroup recommended increasing children's environmental health content at the undergraduate, graduate, and continuing nursing education levels. Workgroups also identified the key medical and nursing organizations that would be important in leveraging these changes. A concerted effort to prioritize pediatric environmental health by governmental organizations and foundations is essential in providing the resources and expertise to set policy and provide the tools for teaching pediatric environmental health to health care providers.