

Communication in paediatrics

Apr 11, 2017 | 0



education, General medicine, onthepods, paediatrics

Summary Writer: E N

Editor: C E

Interviewee: C E K

J D C E D K
. T
E D
C E C P S
. A M
. C C L U N
S . H
A P L S E B
J P C H . C I B
H P S
K P S G H . S
APLS - P
. K
. S
U S

With Dr Chris Elliot and Dr Kylie Yates, Consultant Paediatricians at teaching hospitals in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Introduction

When assessing paediatric patients, it is important to communicate effectively with parents, the consultant paediatrician and general practitioner. This podcast provides tips for junior doctors on how to undertake these tasks when working in a busy Emergency Department.

Case 1 - You're a junior doctor in the Emergency Department. You're asked to see a 4 year old boy with cough and wheeze. He is a bit off his food and his mum is worried that he is always sick.



1. Important features of the paediatric history

- Presenting complaint

)f

- How did it start?
- When was the last time they were completely well?
- What is it that made you bring them to hospital, today?
- Identify parental concerns
 - Identify and address what is worrying them and balance that with your own concerns
- Repeat narrative back to parents, to clarify for you and for the parent what is going on
 - Parents can correct if you have made any errors
- Look for red flags such as:
 - Story changing when you repeat it back to parents (if inconsistencies identified, look for other evidence and try to corroborate the history from another source)
 - Child protection concerns
 - Excessive health seeking behaviour
 - If parents seem particularly worried and you can't identify why, consider if there are any mental health issues
 - Is the child safe at home?
- Always review growth and development even if not part of the presenting problem, as this is an opportunity to intervene or educate parents if concerns identified

- Review treatments given at home e.g., compliance with Asthma Management Plan
 - If gaps identified, reeducate parents
 - If followed appropriately, reassure parents that they did everything right
 - Even if the child is well by the time they reach the ED, reassure parents that bringing them to hospital is the right thing to do if they are concerned (important in the time-pressured environment of the ED, to always be mindful of parental guilt and anxiety)
- Educate the child and family if appropriate

- The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. Fact Sheets.

- R
S S , A ,

- A

- M

- C

- A