Improving Transitions from Pediatric to Adult Care
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BACKGROUND
- <50% of youth with chronic conditions receive help with their transition from pediatric to adult medical care
- Most programs at Boston Children’s Hospital (BCH) have not had a clear adult care policy or process

INNOVATION
The Weitzman Family BRIDGES Adult Transition Program is a comprehensive program to support the medical/surgical needs of young adults with congenital or acquired pediatric diseases, improve quality of life by empowering and educating all stakeholders, with an emphasis on their individual needs to ensure a seamless transition from pediatric to adult care

AIM
Over a 12 month period:
- Survey >95% of hospital departments, divisions, and programs about their adult transition processes
- Meet with >75% of respondents for a deep dive and sharing of the BRIDGES transition toolkit
- Develop concrete action plans for improving transition processes

METHODS

OUTCOMES

STRENGTHS
- Have a running list of nephrologists (and kidney stone) providers willing to take BCH pts
- Relationship with adult hospital
- SW has been working on transition readiness for years

WEAKNESSES
- Less about the # of pts that are transition/transfer eligible but rather the patients’ overall complexity

OPPORTUNITIES
- Develop a policy
- Develop a tracking list (used to have one but needs to be updated)
- Pregnant pts are a hard cut off for this team (and result in emergency transfers). Could use this as a learning opportunity

THREATS
- 25% of pts could be transferred however, that would result in loss of revenue
- Push back from other departments (e.g. primary care)
- Parents are a barrier
- Attempted to transition a patient but other subspecialty service at hospital would not accept patient

CONCLUSIONS
- Most programs at Boston Children’s Hospital self-rated their transition to adulthood activities as “Level 1/Basic”
- Programs were able to set specific goals to improve their transition processes, guided by the BRIDGES team and the Transition Toolkit
- BRIDGES will work with hospital leadership to set hospital wide goals for improving young adult transition care

We thank the Stuart and Jane Weitzman Family Foundation for their financial support.