

Online system and Help Me Grow transforming developmental screening & referrals

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Fellow colleagues, I have some good and bad news...

Like many of you, West Alabama Pediatrics participated in the Chapter's Alabama Early Screening Improvement Training Project back in 2012. From this research, Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) became a staple tool that we continued to use at our 9- and 18-month check-ups. The bad news is that we identified a few issues from using the ASQ. It took some effort to identify the correct screening age of the child at the time of his/her appointment. It also took considerable time for the parents to complete the screening on paper, for the nurse to score it and then for the doctors to review it during the patient's visit. Follow-up on Early Intervention referrals also had some confusion and limiting steps with correspondence. Despite the inconvenience of the above process, I still strongly felt that the screening impacted the early identification of growth

and development concerns and continued to use it in my practice.

Now for the good news. My office recently piloted the ASQ Enterprise through Help Me Grow Alabama. ASQ Enterprise provides a parent- and user-friendly online system for the Ages and Stages Questionnaires. This system provides the convenience of using an iPad, which eliminates illegible written responses



from the parents. It also automatically chooses the correct screening age and scores the questionnaire and provides powerful functionality that transforms ASQ findings into child screening reports.

Adding this new online version has significantly benefited my practice by utilizing a great screening tool in a technologically advanced method. It has improved the time-limiting steps that the paper version created and I have also seen the benefits of partnering with Help Me Grow Alabama for our referrals and with follow-up correspondence. I would strongly encourage all of you to give ASQ Enterprise a try.

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conferences throughout the state designed to increase awareness in very specific circumstances, the hosted event for the Governor at Dothan Pediatrics, the interviews/availability to the media and the direct contact with legislators all played key roles in promoting our efforts to educate and influence the public and our legislature. The end result remains to be seen, but we have increased awareness and at some point should reap the benefit. So thank you to everyone for a great job and a persistent attitude. We press on and remain at the table in pursuit of equity.

Another habit of wellness is awareness of the blessings in our daily living. For me, those are specifically for family and health, of course – most of us would put those high on the list, but also high on my list is the fact that within my professional life, I am living the dream. While the business side of practice is fraught with frustration and the extended family of some of my patients make me crazy, the actual hands-on, hearts in contact with beautiful potential is a timeless treasure. What a blessing!

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