Overview

The New Jersey Pediatric Psychiatry Collaborative (NJPPC) program is a NJ DCF-funded program that partners Hackensack-Meridian Health, two other health and hospital systems throughout New Jersey, to provide support for children with mental/behavioral and substance use issues. The program is available for children up to age 18 (and possibly age 21). Primary care providers agree to universally offer standardized NJPPC-approved* mental/behavioral health and substance use screenings at each child’s well visit. The NJPPC’s hospital-based Hubs offer providers quick access to psychiatric consultation and facilitate referrals for patients to access ongoing mental/behavioral health care.

* Survey of Well-being of Young Children (SWYC), the Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC-37), Pediatric Symptom Checklist—Youth (PSC-Y), and CRAFFT

NJPPC Regional Hubs

Hackensack Meridian Hub @ Jersey Shore University Medical Center (Monmouth and Ocean Counties)

Hackensack Meridian Hub @ St. Peter’s Family Health Center (Mercer and Middlesex Counties)

Hackensack Meridian Hub @ Hackensack University Medical Center (Bergen County)

Hackensack Meridian Hub @ Palisades Medical Center (Hudson & Union Counties)

Cooper Hub @ Cooper University Medical Center (Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester Counties)

Cooper Hub @ Pennsville (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem Counties)

Atlantic Health Hub @ Goryeb Children’s Hospital (Morris and Passaic Counties)

Atlantic Health Hub @ Newton Medical Center (Hunterdon, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties)

Essex County served by Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. More information on the Essex Hub can be found at:

https://ubhc.rutgers.edu/clinical/community/collaborative-behavioral-health-care-project.xml

For pediatric providers interested in joining the Pediatric Psychiatry Collaborative and NJAAP’s MOC Part 4 Program, please visit our website:

www.njaap.org/programs/mental-health/PPC
Hub Services

New Jersey Pediatric Psychiatry Collaborative support services available through the hospital-based Hubs include:

- Telephonic consultation for pediatricians with a child & adolescent psychiatrist through the Child Psych Consult line, staffed Mondays – Fridays during regular business hours. After hours telephone coverage is available 24/7.

- Psychologists, social workers, and other mental health professionals are available to reach out to the referred child’s family to obtain collateral history regarding the child’s mental health concerns, including the completion of secondary mental health screening instruments to assist in providing diagnostic clarification.

- Psychologists, social workers, and other mental health professionals are available to assist the family in locating and linking the referred child to appropriate mental health treatment resources in their community.

- If a case is considered to be urgent or medically complicated, the Hub will offer a one-time face to face evaluation and follow-up session with a child and adolescent psychiatrist (CAP). When the evaluation is completed, a Hub CAP will continue to be telephonically available to the referring pediatrician for ongoing consultation if needed.

- Hub staff will perform routine follow-up phone calls with referred families to monitor progress.

- Ongoing educational opportunities in care management and treatment in the primary care office for the most common mental health issues, i.e. ADHD, depression, anxiety, etc.

Your Role

Responsibilities of the referring pediatrician:

- The physician agrees to conduct universal mental/behavioral health and substance use screening using the NJPPC-approved tools for all children and adolescents during routine well child visits. Screening can also be performed during a sick visit if the child presents with mental health concerns.

- The physician agrees to submit a brief weekly screening log to the hub, as well as to complete pre and post demographic surveys.

- We encourage your optional participation in the provided educational webinar series in order to increase your knowledge about identifying and managing common mental/behavioral health issues in your practice.

Optional MOC Part 4 Program

Participants may also opt to join NJAAP’s Collaborative Mental Health Program. This ABP Approved Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 4 Program is aimed at helping pediatricians increase use of mental/behavioral health screening tools, anticipatory guidance, referrals and care coordination to support the early detection of mental/behavioral health issues, and the improvement of mental/behavioral health care in the primary care setting. You will receive:

- Training on mental/behavioral health screening

- Provider and family resources

- Hands-on technical assistance for implementing screening and care coordination

- Opportunities to network with colleagues, experts, and community organizations

- 25 ABP Part 4 MOC points upon program completion

What Physicians are Saying about the Hub

“I love the Hub! It has really helped us provide immediate access to mental health services for our patients. Now our patients’ mental health issues are addressed in a timely manner. Using the PSC and Y-PSC helped us to identify problems in our patients, and it promoted communication and conversations with patients. I was so impressed that the child psychiatrist called me for consults about my at-risk teens.”

- Dr. Bautista, Colts Neck Pediatrics

“The Program has increased our referrals, improved patient awareness, and increased screening for all ages.”

- Dr. Hanna, Plaza Pediatrics

“We are now identifying kids that might have slipped through the cracks, and giving parents resources when they had nowhere else to turn.”

- CHOP Gibbsboro

“Using the screening tools captured more patient information and streamlined the referral process when assistance was needed for the family. Because of this project, we are now effective in caring for the whole child. And we have reached 100% screening!”

- Dr. Flores, Pediatrics Day & Night