

Perinatal News & Events

Cincinnati Children's Perinatal Outreach Program



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Inside this Issue

- Cincinnati Children's Online Resources
- We Thrive™
- Announcements

New Technology in the Perinatal Provider Toolbox: Cincinnati's New Electronic ED Alert System

Karen and Jonathan welcomed their daughter, Alexis, into the world 3 weeks ago. Karen's pregnancy and the delivery were uncomplicated and the family joyfully embraced being first-time parents. The 2-week well baby check with the family's primary care physician (PCP) demonstrated that Alexis was a healthy, robust baby on target with all of the developmental milestones.

Shortly thereafter, Jonathan came down with low-grade fever and mild cough. Karen and Jonathan decided that he would avoid as much contact with Alexis as possible until his fever cleared up. During a nighttime feeding ten days later, Alexis felt feverish and Karen noticed an odd breathing pattern; slow with long pauses. Karen became alarmed, woke Jonathan up and they drove Alexis to the Emergency Department (ED) at their local hospital.

At the ED, a pertussis culture and PCR test was ordered, as it was suspected that Alexis could have pertussis. She was admitted to the hospital and put on empiric antibiotics. Alexis' case was caught very early, her signs and symptoms were mild and the family was allowed to go home after 48 hours with instructions to await the test results and follow-up with their PCP. A few weeks later, Karen made an appointment for Alexis with the PCP.

Now imagine a scenario where an electronic, real-time notification email was sent from the ED to the family's PCP via a secure gateway the very night Alexis was admitted. After

Continued on page 2

Cincinnati's New Electronic ED Alert System *continued from page 1*

reviewing the alert the next morning, the PCP requested that the Registered Nurse (RN) call Karen to inquire about what happened and collect more information to guide follow-up recommendations. During the call, the RN asked questions, provided suggestions and reassurance. The RN also scheduled an office visit for Jonathan to be re-vaccinated and for Alexis to be re-checked.

The family felt supported, the patient-provider relationship was strengthened and the family's ties to their PCP were much stronger following the quick response and high standard of care provided – a series of events made possible by the initial electronic ED alert.

This use case in pediatrics and family medicine can become a reality for every Cincinnati PCP in the very near future. How? Through the technology and infrastructure offered by HealthBridge, the region's health information exchange (HIE). HIEs are entities that support health information technology (HIT) adoption and use throughout a health care system and/or a geographic region.

HealthBridge ensures that the right information reaches the right people at the right time. Based in Cincinnati, HealthBridge operates across the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana and is considered one of the most advanced and successful HIEs in the country. HealthBridge is a leader and partner organization within several HIT and quality improvement projects including the Greater Cincinnati Beacon Collaborative, the Tri-State Regional Extension Center and the Comprehensive Primary Care initiative, among others. The ED Alert System is just one of the technological advances spearheaded by HealthBridge since its inception in 1997.

The ED Alert System has been a notable success. Since the System went live in April 2012, over 18,000 ED alerts have been sent to nearly 90 practices in the Cincinnati region. These practices are utilizing the alerts in a variety of ways including quick patient follow-up and quality improvement innovations that hold promise for system-wide change.

For example, several practices are using the ED alerts in the pursuit of Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) certification. PCMH is a practice model that emphasizes strong patient-provider partnerships, care coordination, safety and quality improvement. The model is flourishing across the Cincinnati region and the ED Alert System is a powerful tool practices can use to achieve important tenets of the PCMH model.

Both the Cincinnati Children's Perinatal Outreach Project and HealthBridge help facilitate communication between providers and across settings. Emerging technological advances offered by HealthBridge – such as the ED Alert System – can facilitate and strengthen this communication and add new dimensions to the care coordination of pregnant women and newborns. These outcomes, in turn, will lead to a healthier population and a more efficient and effective health care delivery system.

For more information about HealthBridge, its partnerships and cutting-edge technology innovations, please visit www.healthbridge.org.

Jill Nielsen-Farrell



Cincinnati Children's Online Resources for Parents and Families

Cincinnati Children's recently updated its website in a simpler easy-to-navigate format for families and professionals. Go to:

www.cincinnatichildrens.org

Areas of interest for perinatal professionals:

NICU – Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/service/n/nicu/default/

Programs & Services	Meet the Team
What to Expect	Glossary and Map
NICU Transport	Frequently Asked Questions
Feeding Your Baby	And more.....

FCC - Fetal Care Center

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/service/f/fetal-care/default/

Center for the Prevention of Preterm Birth

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/research/divisions/c/preterm-birth/default/

Perinatal Institute

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/service/p/perinatal/default/

Special Needs Resource Directory

When a family has a child with special healthcare needs, they face the constant challenge of finding information and resources. The Special Needs Resource Directory, created by the **Center for Infants and Children with Special Needs** at Cincinnati Children's, can assist parents, caregivers and healthcare providers identify, evaluate and access necessary services and supports. You can be quickly connected to local, regional and national websites to help you:

- Find information about your child's diagnosis or condition.
- Identify strategies to help you advocate for your child.
- Develop community connections for resources and support.
- Locate information and resources to assist you with special education, healthcare, financial, transition, recreation, networking and future planning needs.
- Overcome barriers to access healthcare resources.

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/patients/child/special-needs/directory/default/



Community partners, schools, local businesses and other key stakeholders from across Hamilton County are joining forces to implement evidence-based strategies that promote physical activity, healthy eating and reduced tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke – all lifestyle behaviors associated with obesity, heart disease, diabetes and other chronic diseases. The We THRIVE!sm initiative is building a solid foundation for sustainable changes by addressing policy, systems and environmental change. This project is funded primarily by three national grants: CDC's Strategic Alliance for Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Healthy Kids Healthy Communities and CDC's Communities Putting Prevention to Work.

PERINATAL INSTITUTE

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*Our mission is to improve the
health of newborn infants through
innovation in clinical care, education
and research.*

www.cincinnatichildrens.org

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/perinatal

Announcements

Prevention of Prematurity Mini-Symposium

3:00-5:00 pm, Thursday, October 11, 2012
Cincinnati Children's Research Auditorium R3381
For more information contact Michelle.Zdunic@cchmc.org

2012 Fetology Conference

Diagnosis, Interventions and Innovations: Focusing on Cardiac Conditions Affecting the Mother, Fetus and Newborn

October 12-13, 2012
Sponsored by the Fetal Care Center of Cincinnati
www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1116417

11th Annual Regional Perinatal Leaders' Summit Narcotics in Pregnancy: Maternal & Infant Issues

12:30-3:30 pm, Friday, October 19, 2012
S Auditorium, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
www.cincinnatichildrens.org/cme

For more information contact: kathy.bill@cchmc.org or (513) 636-8225.

Every Baby Matters: Turning Up the Volume on Ohio Infant Mortality

Wednesday, November 28, 2012
Greater Columbus Convention Center
www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/cfhs/OCTPIM/infantmortality.aspx

Regional Perinatal Nurse Manager Meeting

8:30-11:30 am, Thursday, November 29, 2012
The Christ Hospital
RSVP by November 26 to: Danielle.Bolton@cchmc.org

Save the Date!

Neofest 2013

Friday, March 8, 2013
Sabin Auditorium
Cincinnati Children's Hospital

