

The Pediatric Home Visit Program: Assessment and Extension of Impact on Pediatric Resident Clinical Skill Development and Professionalism Education

Background: Since 1995, the UVA Pediatric Home Visit Program has offered pediatric residents the opportunity of visiting patients in their homes. Residents see 1-2 patients per year that belong to their individual continuity clinics and follow colleagues for 6-8 additional patient home visits per year. Since its inception, the program has afforded approximately 450 patient home visits. Residents observe family resources, talk with family members who don't normally attend clinic visits, understand the travel time families face when coming to clinic appointments, and give more appropriate anticipatory guidance to parents. They also directly observe their peers during a patient encounter from beginning to end.

Project Summary: Although the existing program has served an important role in teaching residents the art of making house calls, the extended program can offer more to promote resident educational training in the following competencies: patient care, medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, practice-based learning and improvement, and systems-based practice. We desire to enrich the physician-patient relationship, demonstrate effective modeling and skill enhancement, and encourage resident research and child advocacy projects. The expansion of our program will not only allow additional home visits, but also will allow initiation of visits to area schools to strengthen relationships with school personnel, observe students' school atmosphere and resources, and apply this knowledge to patient care. Through this extended program we will perform extended resident evaluations, review clinical charts to study patient health outcome measures, and assimilate data for the purposes of answering research questions.