



Effective Health Care

Transitioning CSHCN from Pediatric to Adult Care Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- The topic, *Interventions to Transition Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) from Pediatric to Adult Care*, is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available at this time; however, it will be considered for a potential technical brief by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.
- To see a description of a technical brief, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/research-for-policymakers-researchers-and-others/> .
- If this topic is developed into a technical brief, a protocol posted on the AHRQ Web site. To sign up for notification when this and other EHC Program topics are posted, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/> .

Topic Description

Nominator(s): Individual on behalf of a group of stakeholders

Nomination Summary: In 2002, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) determined that approximately 500,000 children considered to have special health care needs will transition from pediatric care to adult care annually. The nominator questions if, when and how children with special health care needs should be transitioned from pediatric services to adult health care services.

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Population(s): Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), i.e., “those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.”¹

Intervention(s): Any tools or guidelines that aim to transition CSHCN from pediatric to adult care (use of care coordinators, physician consultations, etc.)

Comparator(s): Other transition interventions or no transition intervention

Outcome(s): Successful transition planning to adult care without loss or discontinuity of services, satisfaction with care, continued appropriate management of chronic health problems and optimal transitional ages and reductions in mortality and morbidity.

¹ McPherson M, Arango P, Fox H, Lauver C, et al. A new definition of children with special health care needs. *Pediatrics* 1998;102(1):137–40.

**Key Questions
from Nominator:**

1. If, when and how should CSHCN transition from pediatric to adult services?
2. What interventions are designed to support CSHCN in transitions from pediatric care to adult care and also to support the needs of family members/caregivers, and provide training to physicians to promote successful transition from pediatric to adult care services?
3. What is the effectiveness of interventions designed to support CSHCN in transitioning from pediatric care to adult care?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- The definition of CSHCN encompasses a number of health conditions and approximately 500,000 children considered to have special health care needs will transition from pediatric to adult care annually.
- There is the need for a comprehensive model of care for this population. Yet there was limited evidence of effective transition strategies for CSHCN and a number of unanswered questions concerning transitions of care. It was determined that a technical brief may help to direct future research efforts by delineating a framework that characterizes the populations, comparisons, and methodologies needed to evaluate transition strategies.
- Literature focused on patient-centered medical homes may help to inform the development of the technical brief.