

Coordinating Care in a Medical Home: an interview with Dr. Schumann

One of the things that we have learned is that when we work together as a team and collaborate we can accomplish so much more. And this is really important because what we are all about is taking care of the child and taking care of the family. One of the things that is critically important in this is to know who the primary Doctor or the medical home provider is going to be at the time that the child leaves the hospital. This allows us to not only get the information about the newborn hearing screening into the hands of the doctor who is going to be responsible for taking care of this infant, it also allows you to get the metabolic screening results to the right doctor as well. When this doctor has that information in their hands they can double check on it when the baby is coming in for their regularly scheduled appointments. The purpose of the medical home and the primary care provider is to coordinate the care for the family. They are aware of the resources that are available. They can plug the families into the Guide By Your Side Program. They can reinforce the importance of going to that audiology visit and they have the information about the whole big picture of the child. So for instance, if they have missed the audiology appointment and are now ending up needing a sedated brainstem test, that doctor and this has actually happened, we had a baby who needed to have sedation for a brain imaging test. The doctor did not realize that the child had missed the hearing screening test. We could have done the ABR sedated and the MRI sedated at the same time and we missed that valuable opportunity to do so because the coordination wasn't there. So, please think ahead. Pull all you team together. Make sure the baby's primary care provider/medical home is on the same page as you are and you will end up with much better results for the child and the families.