SECOND OPINION

Partnership with schools improves outcomes for kids with ADHD

I would like to applaud AAP News for highlighting the accomplishments of several outstanding pediatric practices for their work to establish strong partnerships between their practices and the schools in their communities to improve outcomes for children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (April 2004, page 178).

These practices are fulfilling the challenges laid out by the Academy’s practice guidelines for the diagnosis and management of ADHD, which highlight the need for such partnerships and emphasize the importance of considering ADHD to be a chronic condition. The Academy’s medical home framework similarly emphasizes the importance of this partnership.

I also would like to add that each of these practices participated in the National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare Quality’s learning collaborative on improving care for children with ADHD. This structured program of training, tools and support, conducted in partnership with the AAP and others over a 12-month period, provided an environment in which practices could make changes, such as the ones described in your article, that lead to better outcomes for children and families.

Thank you again for highlighting both the importance and the feasibility of establishing such strong community links for a variety of pediatric practices.

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