
Abstract

What is the experience of families and Healthcare Professionals of having an obesity diagnosis discussion in Kidz First Emergency Department?

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INTRODUCTION

Kidz First Emergency Department, Middlemore Hospital and the University of Auckland. We set out to explore the experiences of families and Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) when having an obesity diagnosis discussion (ODD) in Kidz First Emergency Department (KFED). International literature has demonstrated consistently that HCPs are unwilling to conduct ODDs due to multiple reasons which have been mirrored by parental views on having an ODD. Opportunistic ODDs within a childrens emergency department have not been researched from either an HCP or parents view. A mixed method research design comprising 8 parent interviews, HCP's survey and a focus group where 9 HCPs attended was conducted. Convenience sampling was used to recruit eight parents who had had an ODD at KFED in the previous 2-3 weeks. The survey link, which included an invite to the focus group, was emailed to all doctors and nurses working within KFED during September 2018 to January 2019. This research was conducted at one location, Kidz First Emergency Department. The children's emergency department based at Middlemore Hospital, within Counties Manukau District Health Board. A summary of the findings were that most parents were unaware that their child was categorised as obese. Once identified, all parents wanted to have the healthy living discussion with the HCP. Several factors affected parental engagement in the ODD and these aligned with HCP's experiences. All parents were keen to make some of the suggested lifestyle changes, yet there were several factors which prevented implementation, including grandparental behaviour and parental time pressure. The overall conclusion was that HCPs working within KFED should try to prioritise ODDs with families when parental engagement criteria are met.

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