Communication by Private Pediatricians of Gujarat

Content Analysis of Outpatient record. .

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Background and Aims Adequate, accurate and timely communication is crucial in healthcare. Written communication has several advantages like easy and fast retrieval, portability etc. India reports worst child nutrition status, very high neonatal and infant mortality and poor infant and young child feeding practices with some harmful traditional practices. Every routine visit is an opportunity to empower families about child rearing. More than half of the healthcare is provided by private sector.

Aim: To analyse the contents of outpatient records of communication by Private Pediatricians of Gujarat.

Methods We sourced files of pediatricians from various sources. We analyzed adequacy and accuracy of the data related to vaccination, growth charts, diet advice and nutritional milestones. The data was de-identified before analyzing. Descriptive statistics were used for this audit.

VARIABLES	YES(%)	NO(%)
Patient's name	86.1	13.9
Sex	12.5	87.5
Diagnosis	1.4	98.6
Doctor's name and details	100	0
Working hours	93.1	6.9
No of beds	93.1	6.9
Facility of nicu/picu	44.4	55.6
Laboratory facility	27.8	72.2
Advice for breastfeeding	68.1	31.9

Breastfeeding(in months)		Frequency	Percent
Valid	4.00	17	23.6
	5.00	1	1.4
	6.00	30	41.7
	9.00	1	1.4
	NA	23	31.9
Any other milk adviced?		Frequency	Percent
Valid	NO	49	68.1
	NA	23	31.9

Danger Signs		Frequency	Percent
Valid	NO	56	77.8
	YES	16	22.2
	Total	72	100.0

Results: Out of 73 files received, contents of 72 files could be analyzed. General information about the hospital and the facilities was fairly presented. Most files [65(90.3%)] had immunization schedule but only 46(70.8%) followed Indian Academy of Pediatrics(IAP) guidelines. Breastfeeding advice [49(69.1%)] was more common as compared to complementary feeding [24(33.3%)] but both had variations and discrepancies. Only 20(27.8%) provided growth charts but most were not contemporary. Developmental milestones [13(18.1%)] and danger signs [16(22.2%)] were rarely provided. In 42(58.3%) files, the information was provided in vernacular language.

Conclusion: It is evident that most files lack adequate, contextual and contemporary information. The opportunities to empower the mothers/families about appropriate child rearing practices are missed. A regional standardization of patient record may be tried to ensure adequate and contemporary communication.

Immunization schedule		Frequency	Percent
Valid	NO	7	9.7
	YES	65	90.3
Guidelines		Frequency	Percent
Valid	IAP	46	63.9
	OTHERS	19	26.4
	NA	7	9.7
	Total	72	100.0

Growth Chart	Frequency	Percent
NO	52	72.2
YES	20	27.8
Total	72	100.0
Guidelines	Frequency	
.00	1	1.4
WHO	3	4.2
IAP	9	12.5
OTHERS	7	9.7
NA	52	72.2

Developmental milestones		Frequency	Percent
Valid	NO	59	81.9
	YES	13	18.1
	Total	72	100.0
No of milestones		Frequency	Percent
Valid	6.00	2	2.8
	8.00	2	2.8
	10.00	2	2.8
	14.00	2	2.8
	16.00	1	1.4
	18.00	1	1.4
NA	59	81.9	81.9
Total	72	100.0	100.0

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