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Supporting Children and Caregivers During Transitions from Hospital-to-Home

CYSHCN Researchers Receive \$5.5 Million from PCORI to Compare Transitions Across Settings for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Aurora, Colo (Feb. 23, 2024) – After a child’s hospital stay, the transition back home can be risky—particularly for children with chronic health issues and complex medical conditions. To understand how to best support children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and their caregivers, CYSHCN researchers received funding for a multi-site study comparing two types of hospital-to-home transitional care.

Nearly one in five children (almost 14 million) in the United States have a special health care need. These children face unique health challenges that may require hospitalization.

“Past studies have shown the benefits of supporting patients and families with transitional care support,” said Principal Investigator Dr. David Y. Ming. “This will be the first study to address the knowledge gap specifically for hospital-to-home transitional care for CYSHCN.”

The study is [funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\)](#) and will compare two types of hospital-to-home transitional care for CYSHCN to optimize outcomes. Over a one-month post-discharge period, researchers will:

1. Compare the effectiveness of two transitional care approaches—focused dose versus extended dose—in reducing return visits to the hospital or emergency department and increasing parent-reported confidence.
2. Evaluate the impact of each type of hospital-to-home transitional care on specific CYSHCN patient groups, including those with highly-complex clinical needs and those from racial/ethnic minority groups or living in rural areas.
3. Investigate how and why each approach to hospital-to-home transitional care is effective and for whom they work best.

The study team includes multiple community partners, including parents and caregivers with lived experience, clinicians, policymakers, and health system leaders. A community advisory board, primarily composed of a diverse group of parents/caregivers of CYSHCN, will work closely with the research team throughout the study. This collaborative effort aims to contribute to the equitable improvement of overall care for all CYSHCN transitioning from hospital to home.



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Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs National Research Network

“This project was selected for PCORI funding not only for its scientific merit and commitment to engaging patients and other healthcare stakeholders, but also for its conduct in real-world settings. It has the potential to answer an important question about hospital to home transitions for CYSHCN and fill a crucial evidence gap,” said PCORI Executive Director Nakela L. Cook, M.D., MPH. “We look forward to following the study’s progress and working with Duke University to share its results.”

CYSHCN Net Researchers

Dr. David Ming’s award has been approved pending completion of a business and programmatic review by PCORI staff and issuance of a formal award contract.

- Dr. David Y. Ming (Principal Investigator): Duke University School of Medicine
- Dr. Neal deJong: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine
- Dr. Ryan Coller: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

About CYSHCN Net:

CYSHCN Net brings academic researchers and lived experience partners together to study the health care system issues that matter most to CYSHCN and their families. We help CYSHCN and their families by advancing knowledge and implementation of optimal health systems through innovative, rigorous multi-site studies, far reaching dissemination of findings, meaningful partnerships with families, and strong training of emerging CYSHCN investigators. Learn more: <https://cyshcnnet.org/>.

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