

Beyond BMI: The collection and integration of risk and protective factor information in electronic medical records (EMRs) for childhood healthy weights surveillance in Ontario

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Phase 1: Estimated healthy weights using 18-month Well-Baby Visit (WBV) data from EMRs

- Described the quality of 18-month WBV data from EMRs from the Better Outcomes Registry and Network (BORN) Ontario.
- Estimated the prevalence of optimal growth among Ontario children at the 18-month WBV.

Phase 2: Assessed use of NutriSTEP® in primary care

- Examined the use of Nutrition Screening for Toddlers and Preschoolers (NutriSTEP®) in a sample of primary care settings in Ontario.
- Assessed the receptivity and feasibility of using NutriSTEP® linked within EMRs in primary care.

Key Findings

- Data on heights and weights collected from the 18-month WBV were of high quality.
- Twenty-two per cent (22%) of 17- to 22-month-old toddlers were affected by overweight or obesity.
- Primary care practices were using NutriSTEP® as an effective screening tool to identify risk and protective factors for childhood healthy weights.
- Primary care practices were enthusiastic about the integration of NutriSTEP® into EMRs.
- Key partnerships are important to assist in collaborations between public health and primary care practices, as well as with BORN Ontario to collect data province wide from EMRs.

Phase 3: Beyond BMI: Expanding an EMR-based healthy weights surveillance system to include NutriSTEP® data

An EMR-based surveillance system for childhood healthy weights will benefit primary care practices by providing a clinical tool for improving the care and management of their patients, as well as fill a critical surveillance gap in public health.

Objectives

- Explore and assess processes to support successful implementation, integration and extraction of NutriSTEP® data from EMRs of children 18 months up to 6 years of age, in primary care practices in Ontario.
- Assess the quality of NutriSTEP® data linked with heights and weights data within the EMRs of children 18 months up to 6 years of age, in primary care practices in Ontario.

Methodology

- Integrate NutriSTEP® form into EMR platform of primary care settings.
- Provide training and support for successful implementation.
- Extract and analyze quality of NutriSTEP® data in addition to individual and total scores.
- Assess important factors for successful implementation, collection and extraction of NutriSTEP® data.

For a copy of the full Phase 1 & Phase 2 report, please visit:
http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/LDCP_BeyondBMI_FinalReport_2015.pdf

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