

London Children's Hospital, LHSC Pediatric Neurology

Shared Decision Making in Pediatric Practice: a Pilot Project

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Children's Hospital is committed to creating as positive a patient and family-centred experience as possible. Investing in the creation of a shared decision making environment offering decision coaching support services to patients and families demonstrates this commitment. Access to a Decision Coach and shared decision making (SDM) resources supports patients and families in gaining knowledge ; evaluating benefits and drawbacks; and clarifying priorities which are all integral to a comprehensive approach to making challenging medical decisions. The opportunity to improve decision skills and providing greater support to families navigating treatment and care decisions is of particular importance to those patients and families facing recurrent challenging health care decisions.

There are few Canadian pediatric departments that have made a systematic approach to creating a SDM environment. This pilot fills a gap through development of sustainable and validated decision supports which can be widely integrated into other pediatric clinics. The pilot is innovative in that the proposed model involves unbiased decision support from outside the patient's direct circle of care, laying the foundation for comparison to models where practitioners directly involved provide the decision coaching.

This project is providing children, youth and families with support across a range of challenging decisions at critical times in their health care journey.

Project parameters include: needs assessment, literature review, tool box, stakeholder engagement, education and training, communication, change management, evaluation and sustainability.

The pilot is entering its second year of implementation.