

Climate-Informed Pediatric Care

How to Guide

OVERVIEW

The Climate-Informed Pediatric Care (CIPC) guide provides guidance to pediatric clinics about developing, launching, and sustaining a CIPC model using a quality-of-care improvement strategy.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. Inform the health system's senior leadership, clinic staff, and providers of climate change's threat to children's health and the American Academy of Pediatrics guidance to address this threat.
 - a. Educate health system senior leaders, clinicians, and administrative staff in pediatric clinics that the National Academy of Medicine has declared that "Climate change represents one of the most significant threats to human health in the 21st century."
 - b. Emphasize that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has urged all pediatricians to "incorporate climate change counseling into clinical practice."
2. Assess baseline clinicians' knowledge, attitudes, and practice of climate-informed care.
 - a. Conduct key informant interviews of clinicians and staff.
 - b. Deploy a provider survey to assess knowledge, attitudes, and current practice about the impact of climate change on children's health.
 - c. Use these tools to identify potential barriers to a quality-of-care improvement project to align clinical practice with the AAP recommendations.
3. Build awareness, support, and rationale for the project.
 - a. Engage the support of senior leadership.
 - b. Discuss the project with each site's clinic physician, nurse, and administrative chiefs to co-create the project's implementation and tailor it to the exigencies of each site.
 - c. Identify and work with project champions at each site to incorporate climate-informed care into existing workflows.
4. Build and deploy a toolkit of resources.
 - a. Identify publicly available toolkits such as the Climate Resilience for Frontline Clinics Toolkit available at <https://www.americares.org/what-we-do/community-health/climate-resilient-health-clinics/#toolkit>

- b. Supplement available toolkits with helpful resources identified in baseline interviews, surveys, and meetings. These might include patient education materials such as clinic-branded patient education flyers and waiting and exam room posters with QR codes to vetted, web-based climate and health information. Clinician resources might include brief patient-provider role-playing videos of typical conversations about climate and health, scripts for brief conversations about climate and health, incorporation of patient education handouts in electronic medical records available with a single click of a phrase, and directing pediatricians to Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part II and IV modules about climate and health.
- 5. Launch the project.
 - a. Conduct clinician and staff training and provide resources tailored for each clinic to expand knowledge.
 - b. Facilitate access to resources and assist with toolkit implementation with the support of the clinic champions.
- 6. Build and maintain excitement and participation.
 - a. Schedule regular meetings with the champions.
 - b. Engage senior leaders in reiterating the importance of the project.
- 7. Adapt implementation as the project continues.
 - a. Periodically assess the success of implementation through champion meetings, enumeration of use of toolkit items, and brief staff surveys.
 - b. In consultation with clinic leaders and champions, make clinic-specific adaptations.
- 8. Formally evaluate process and outcomes.
 - a. Repeat the baseline survey.
 - b. Enumerate toolkit use.
 - c. Consider deploying patient and parental/caregiver clinic exit surveys.
- 9. Sustain the project.
 - a. Continue to modify the project as necessary based on formal evaluations and champion feedback.
 - b. Maintain support and ongoing training of the champions.
 - c. Periodically conduct clinic-wide updates of climate and health science and practice.
 - d. Celebrate progress in aligning practice with AAP recommendations.