

Accepted Manuscript



Title: Implementation of Early Diagnosis and Intervention Guidelines for Cerebral Palsy in a High-Risk Infant Follow-Up Clinic

Author: Rachel Byrne, Garey Noritz, Nathalie Maitre, NCH Early Developmental Group

PII: S0887-8994(17)30782-8
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/doi: 10.1016/j.pediatrneurol.2017.08.002>
Reference: PNU 9207

To appear in: *Pediatric Neurology*

Received date: 21-7-2017
Revised date: 6-8-2017
Accepted date: 7-8-2017

Please cite this article as: Rachel Byrne, Garey Noritz, Nathalie Maitre, NCH Early Developmental Group, Implementation of Early Diagnosis and Intervention Guidelines for Cerebral Palsy in a High-Risk Infant Follow-Up Clinic, *Pediatric Neurology* (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/doi: 10.1016/j.pediatrneurol.2017.08.002>.

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Title:

Implementation of early diagnosis and intervention guidelines for cerebral palsy in a high-risk infant follow-up clinic

Authors and affiliations:

Rachel Byrne¹, Garey Noritz² and Nathalie Maitre^{2,3}, on behalf of the NCH Early Developmental Group².

¹Cerebral Palsy Foundation, New York, NY

²Department of Pediatrics, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH

³Center for Perinatal Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH

Correspondence:

Dr. Nathalie L. Maitre, Department of Pediatrics
Nationwide Children's Hospital
700 Children's Drive, WB6225, Columbus, Ohio 43205
Nathalie.maitre@nationwidechildrens.org
PH: 614-722-4559
FX: 614-722-4541

Manuscript Word Count: 2759

Abstract

Background: Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common physical disability in childhood, and is mostly diagnosed after 2 years of age. Delays in diagnosis can have negative long-term consequences for children and parents. New guidelines for early diagnosis and intervention for CP were recently published, after systematic review of the evidence by international multidisciplinary experts aiming to decrease age at diagnosis. The current study's goal was to test the feasibility of implementing these guidelines in an American clinical setting.

Methods: We designed a stepwise implementation process in a neonatal intensive care follow-up clinic. Efficacy was tested by comparing 10-month pre/post-implementation periods. Clinic visit types, CP diagnosis, provider competencies and perspectives, and balancing measures were analyzed.

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