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Review Article

Guidelines and checklists for short-term missions in global pediatric surgery: Recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics Delivery of Surgical Care Global Health Subcommittee, American Pediatric Surgical Association Global Pediatric Surgery Committee, Society for Pediatric Anesthesia Committee on International Education and Service, and American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc. Global Health Special Interest Group

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Pediatric surgeons, anesthesia providers, and nurses from North America and other high-income countries (HICs) are increasingly engaged in resource-limited areas, with short-term missions (STMs) as the most common form of involvement. However, consensus recommendations currently do not exist for STMs in pediatric general surgery and associated perioperative care.

Methods: The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Delivery of Surgical Care Subcommittee and American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) Global Pediatric Surgery Committee, with the American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc. (APSNA) Global Health Special Interest Group, and the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA) Committee on International Education and Service generated consensus recommendations for STMs based on extensive experience with STMs.

Results: Three distinct, but related areas were identified: 1) Broad goals of surgical partnerships between HICs and low and middle-income countries (LMICs). A previous set of guidelines published by the Global Paediatric Surgery Network Collaborative (GPSN), was endorsed by all groups; 2) Guidelines for the conduct of STMs were developed, including planning, in-country perioperative patient care, post-trip follow-up, and sustainability; 3) travel and safety considerations critical to STM success were enumerated.

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Conclusion: A diverse group of stakeholders developed these guidelines for STMs in LMICs. These guidelines may be a useful tool to ensure safe, responsible, and ethical STMs given increasing engagement of HIC providers in this work.

Level of evidence: 5.

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Children's surgical and perioperative care providers from North America and other high-income countries (HICs) are increasingly engaged on a global scale in resource-limited areas, with short-term missions (STMs) as the most common form of involvement. While many cadres are involved in care provision, this work will focus primarily on pediatric surgeons, anesthesia providers, and nurses. Many surgical specialties have developed their own guidelines for successful STMs, with recommendations from HIC and low and middle-income country (LMIC) perspectives and groups within children's and adult surgery [1–15]. However, no consensus recommendations currently exist for pediatric general surgery and associated perioperative care.

1. Methods

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Delivery of Surgical Care Global Health Subcommittee and American Pediatric Surgical

Association (APSA) Global Pediatric Surgery Committee, with the American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc. (APSNA) Global Health Special Interest Group, generated consensus recommendations based on extensive experience with STMs. These groups also collaborated with the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA) Committee on International Education and Service for more detailed input for safe anesthesia and perioperative care.

2. Results

Through an iterative process, three distinct, but related areas were identified for consideration:

- 1) Overarching, broad goals of surgical partnerships between HICs and LMICs. A previous set of guidelines developed by the Global Paediatric Surgery Network Collaborative (GPSN), representing a broad

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