Reducing clinical variation in paediatric adenotonsillectomy

Victorian Paediatric Clinical Network
Gillian NIXON and Kate COOMBS
Clinical Lead and SCV Fellow
What is geographic variation?

Tonsillectomy in children

Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care 2015
Readmission rates after Adenotonsillectomy
What influences clinical variation?

Warranted Variation & Unwarranted Variation

- Socio-demographic factors
- Comorbidity
- Effective care
- Supply sensitive care
- Prevalence
- Disease severity
- Preference-sensitive care

Wennberg BMJ 2002
What influences geographic variation?

Consultation

Patient decision aids

Investigation

Referral Guidelines

Referral

Evaluation and discussion

Evidence-based Guidelines

Decision and operation

Audit and feedback

What influences variation?

- There is wide heterogeneity in the way the pros and cons of surgery are represented.
- Shared-decision making is more effective in continuous or chronic care settings (rather than acute or semi-acute settings).

What influences variation?


  “Well-meaning physicians practice locally defined norms of care, without realising how different their practices are from well-meaning physicians in other communities.”

  Goodman J. *Pediatr* 2012;160(5):716-718
The goals of our project

• Decrease geographic variation in adenoidectomy and tonsillectomy so that all LGAs have a rate within 99% control limits of state rate.

• Reduce unplanned readmission after paediatric adenoidectomy and tonsillectomy
Key aspects of the project

• Stakeholder consultation
• Detailed data analysis
• Evidence-based referral guidelines (in collaboration with Health Pathways)
• Develop and disseminate a patient decision aid
• Develop standardised post-op advice
• Improve readmission data
• Intervention for sites with high readmission rates
Wicked-Problem Solvers

Amy C. Edmondson
Harvard Business Review
June 2016

- Adaptable vision
- Psychological safety
- Knowledge sharing
- Execution as learning
Please be in touch

• Gillian Nixon
  Gillian.Nixon@monashhealth.org

• Kate Coombs
  Kate.Coombs @safercare.vic.gov.au