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The birth of an interdisciplinary pediatric pain clinic: Challenges and considerations

The creation of any new program can be an involved and arduous task, as many factors (e.g. staffing, financial) play a substantial role in the program's success. For healthcare programs, these factors must also be considered in conjunction with clinical care needs. In the world of pediatric chronic pain treatment, navigating these considerations well is crucial for the advancement of the field, as interdisciplinary care has become the standard of practice (APS, 2012), and the need for creation of new interdisciplinary care clinics is on the rise. Through this presentation, we aim to advocate for an interdisciplinary pediatric chronic pain treatment model and offer practical considerations and challenges for teams and institutions seeking to create such a clinic program. Roles and staffing, clinic models, financial considerations, and patient outcomes data are covered.

Biography

Grace S Kao is an Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine and licensed Pediatric Pain Psychologist at Texas Children's Hospital. She has completed her Professional Psychology Internship at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, and Pain Psychology Fellowship at Stanford Children's Health/Stanford School of Medicine. She is a Co-founder of the Pediatric Pain Medicine Clinic at Texas Children's Hospital.

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