CCNC Pediatrics: Foster Care

Did you know that children in Foster Care are children with Special Healthcare Needs?

Fundamental Principles:

Children and youth in foster care should be seen early
- To assess for signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect
- To assess for presence of acute and chronic illness
- To assess for signs of acute or severe mental health problems
- To monitor adjustment to foster care
- To ensure a child or youth has all necessary medical equipment and medications
- To support and educate parents (foster and birth) and kin

Children and youth in foster care should be seen often upon entry to foster care
- Health screening visit within 72 hours of placement
- Comprehensive health admission visit within 30 days of placement
- Follow-up health visit within 60 to 90 days of placement

Children and youth should have an enhanced health care schedule
- To monitor for signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect
- To monitor a child’s or youth’s adjustment to foster care and visitation
- To ensure a child or youth has all necessary referrals, medical equipment, and medications
- To support and educate parents (foster and birth) and kin

Children and youth in foster care should be seen often while they are in foster care
- Monthly for infants from birth to age 6 months
- Every 3 months for children age 6 to 24 months
- Twice a year for children and youth between 24 months and 21 years of age

Children and youth in foster care should have comprehensive evaluations
Within 30 days of placement, children and youth in foster care should have the following:
- A mental health evaluation
- A developmental health evaluation if under age 6 years
- An educational evaluation if over age 5 years
- A dental evaluation

Resources:

www.aap.org/fostercare

http://www.ncpeds.org/?page=FHNC

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