Abstract

Background: The incidence of congenital heart disease (CHD) is 1% of the newborn population with over 90% surviving and reaching adulthood. Improved survival requires transition from pediatric-focused to adult-centered cardiac care but this is not routinely performed. Of the many barriers to transition, one of the most fundamental is a lack of physician education and training. There is little data on how to train pediatric residents to properly transition their pediatric patients to adult caregivers. Method: An interactive web based module was prepared and reviewed by a panel of national experts in transition. The module was sent by individual e-mail to Pediatric residents. Residents were asked to complete a pretest, review the module and watch the included videos and then complete a post test. The module and the tests take approximately 60 minutes to view and complete. Although aimed at patients with CHD, similar approaches can be incorporated into the transition of all pediatric patients with other special health care needs.

Objectives for the residents to learn during the module:

- Understand that transition is the purposeful, planned movement of adolescents and young adults with special health care needs from child-centered to adult-oriented health care systems.
- Understand that transition of care is not the same as transfer of care.
- Review the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines recommendations about the written transition plan.
- Recognize the importance of the patient’s chronological age, medical and developmental status when considering timing for transition of care.
- Define appropriate age of transition.
- Understand the concept of a medical home.