

Abstract:

Examining Continuity of Care in Family Medicine Residency: Implications and Impact on Resident Development

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Background:

Continuity of care is an essential component of family medicine outpatient practice. It improves patient-physician relationships, increases patient and provider satisfaction, and improves health outcomes. The recent 2023 ACGME guidelines recommend specific minimum continuity requirements for PGY-2 and PGY-3 residents. However, many family medicine residencies lack continuity of care due to resident scheduling and various rotations of a training program. This leads to inefficient, costly care.

Methods:

In this study, we investigate the factors leading to discontinuous care and its effects on resident confidence as they transition into independent practitioners. We analyzed medical records, patient data, and resident experiences to elucidate the factors leading to more discontinuous care.

Conclusion:

The biggest contributors for discontinuous care are associated with the scheduling limitations of residency. The findings from this project will serve as a foundation for discussion about the elements and effects of fragmented care in family medicine residency training programs, and it may offer solutions to help improve the residency curriculum.