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### Who is my child's main doctor? Assessing caregiver perceptions of teaching teams at a pediatric tertiary care center.

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# Who's my child's main doctor?

## Caregiver Perceptions of Teaching Teams

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### Children's Mercy Kansas City

#### Background

- Large academic teaching teams can create a barrier to communication and relationship-building with caregivers
- There are many benefits to being able to identify a main doctor: increased patient satisfaction, improved relationships, and improved patient safety
- Previous studies in adults and pediatrics have shown that patients and caregivers do not know who their doctors are
- In a previous study with adult patients, the intern was seen as the "main doctor" by the majority of patients
- Who caregivers identify as their main doctor may also have implications on resident autonomy
- There has never been a study in pediatrics to see who caregivers perceive as their child's "main doctor"

#### Methods

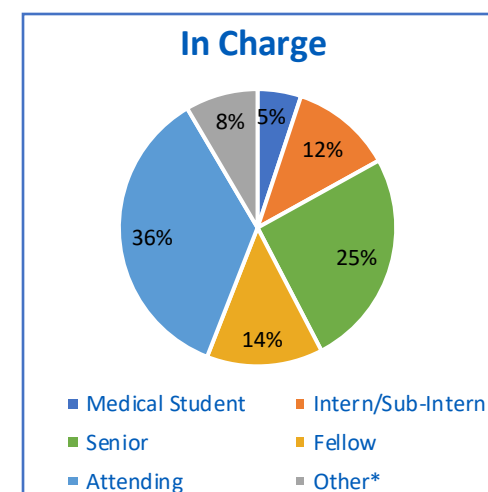
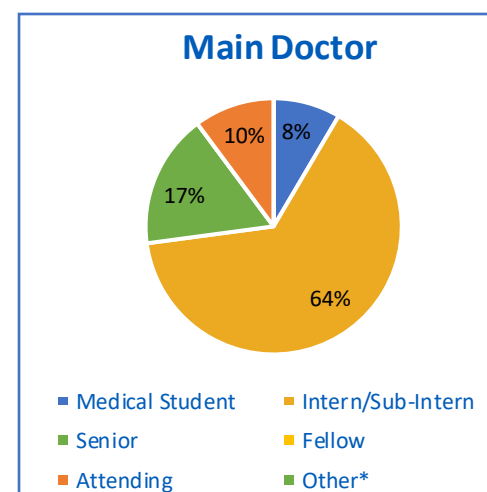
- Convenience sample of caregivers admitted to Pediatric Hospital Medicine teaching teams from January-April 2022
- Four question survey administered to caregivers after family-centered rounds (FCR)
- Caregiver shown masked photographs of all members of the rounding team and asked to identify main doctor and doctor in charge
- Demographic data recorded from the chart: age, gender, number of categories of complex chronic conditions, number of lifetime admissions, length of stay, and number of involved consultants
- Descriptive statistics presented
- Approved by Children's Mercy IRB

#### Results

Available Caregivers	Excluded	Approached	Consented	Response Rate
105	41	64	59	92%

Demographics	Freq (N=59)	%
Patient Age Range: 3 weeks to 17 years	Mean: 4.6 years Median: 3 years	-
Gender (F)	27	46%
Language Spoken (English)	56	95%
Top 3 Diagnoses	Bronchiolitis Constipation Vomiting	-
Complex Chronic Conditions		
0	35	59%
1	17	29%
2	4	7%
>2	3	5%
Prior Admissions		
0	34	58%
1	13	22%
>1	12	20%
Consultants Involved in Care		
0	25	42%
1	15	25%
>1	19	32%

Did the caregiver	Yes
Know the patient would be cared for by large team?	56%
Know there would be learners on the care team?	41%



\*Other: includes "my doctor is not pictured" and "I don't know"

#### Discussion

- Many caregivers did not know their child would be cared for by a large team
- Most caregivers (59%) did not know learners would be involved in their child's care
- Most caregivers (64%) selected the intern as their main doctor, similar to adult studies
- Caregivers varied in who they thought was in charge of their child's care team
- Future directions:
  - Increase sample size to at least 100 caregivers
  - Assess associations between demographics and outcomes
  - Improve introduction methods on FCR using easy to understand terminology for families

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