Improving Access to Care Through Offsite Cochlear Implant Mapping Services in Pediatrics with Additional Disabilities

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Challenges and barriers to successful CI mappings were identified for patients with multiple disabilities:

- Increased anxiety and perceived lack of safety in the medical and unfamiliar environment
- Difficulty transitioning to mapping room
- Resistance to entering mapping room and/or booth
- Eloping; need for security
- Need for increased center-based staffing causes more anxiety
Objective
To create flexible and individualized mapping sessions for pediatric cochlear implant recipients with additional disabilities

A shift of perspective - asking patient to be successful in our setting when we should think about how we can be successful in their setting.
How it started…
Patient Population

• 8 Students
  7 attend Perkins School for the Blind – preschool to adult programs
  1 attends specialty school for Autism – age 14
• Varying levels of vision issues, anxiety and developmental status
• All have issues with transitions, one eloper
How it Works

• Eligible for established BCH CI patients
• Use encrypted laptop on local database then upload files to database upon return
• Map/program in sound booth or in therapy room
• Invite parents to join
• Bill as usual
• See patients during regular aural rehabilitation appointment times
Why It Works

• Familiar educational and behavioral supports in a safe, predictable environment
• No need for transportation
• No major changes to patient’s schedule
• Efficient use of time, cost-effective,
  – wireless programming
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

“Wow. That went well. It was amazing to see my daughter be successful.”
-parent of 8 year-old girl

“I was able to relax. I never realized how much stress I experienced during these appointments.”
-parent of 18 year-old girl

• Improved productivity for team members
• Collaboration of care to provide individualized care

Cost Effective

Less Anxiety

Collaboration
Future Directions

• Provide additional offsite mapping/programming at D/HoH School
• Remote mapping
• ESRTs
• Medical evaluations at Perkins
Thank You

Perkins School for the Blind – Vicki Wilson, MS
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