Abstract

This research aims to establish the barriers that healthcare providers (HCPs) encounter from all facets when providing care (especially behavioral therapy) to children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)/Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and their families. The goals of this research are to 1) identify the barriers that HCPs encounter when providing care to children with ADHD 2) see if there has been an improvement in the health system over time with care for children with ADHD 3) understand whether HCPs tailor care to specific patients/cases.

This study uses qualitative methods to obtain detailed information on providers’ perception of benefits and barriers to treatment (particularly behavioral treatment) for young children with ADHD. Phone interviews are conducted with HCPs with questions that examine the experiences of each healthcare provider in providing care to children with ADHD. Three general pediatricians and twelve behavioral health providers were recruited from different areas of Georgia for this research. The main themes highlighted from obtained data are insufficient access to behavioral therapy, inconsistent collaboration with school systems, parents’ commitment to treatment, payment of services accessed (regarding reimbursements) and communication and integrated care between the different HCPs rendering care to the patient.

This study will help researchers understand the health system barriers to health care. The importance of the study is to gain overall information about how to decrease barriers and improve access to health care for children with disorders such as ADHD. The results will be recommended to The Georgia Interagency Directors Team, who would be utilizing this study to fulfill their goal of "building capacity in Georgia to provide excellent practice for young children.
with behavioral disorders, including ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) and Conduct Disorder (CD)."