

## Pediatric Documentation of Injury Anticipatory Guidance: If It's Not Documented, It Wasn't Discussed

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**Background:** Pediatricians provide injury anticipatory guidance (AG) to families in order to prevent future unintentional injuries. Most studies have surveyed pediatricians and demonstrated their self-reported amount of injury prevention (IP) counseling discussed at office visits.

**Objective:** To determine the IP topics documented as discussed by the pediatrician during well child care (WCC) visits for children 1 year of age and younger compared to topics that pediatricians self-reported as discussed within the state of Ohio.

**Design/Methods:** A 33-item survey was emailed to practicing pediatricians who are Ohio AAP members using Survey Monkey software. Survey consisted of demographic information and asked them about current IP AG discussed for children 1 year of age and younger. Their responses were compared to charts pulled from pediatric practices who are members of the Ohio AAP. 30 charts (5 from each WCC visit for children 1 year and younger) were pulled from each of 19 pediatricians (6 practices) in the state. Documented IP AG discussed by the pediatrician were reviewed by staff within each practice and summaries were recorded on a template and submitted on Survey Monkey. Frequencies for the amount of IP AG discussed vs. documented were calculated.

**Results:** 215/564 (38.1%) completed the survey, while 534/570 (93.7%) pediatrician charts of 19 pediatricians were reviewed. Demographic information and experience between the Ohio AAP pediatricians who responded to the survey and those whose charts were reviewed were similar. Pediatricians self-reported to discuss IP AG twice as much as they documented discussions on almost all suggested injury topics. IP AG recommended by the AAP for discussion was documented less than 50% of the time for all injury-related topics.

	Reported Discussion (n=215 pediatricians)	Documented Discussion (n=# charts possible with topic)
Sleep Safety	84.6%	40.6% (360)
Car Safety	82.0%	34.3% (481)
Home Safety	73.2%	33.5% (236)
Poison Prevention	56.7%	29.5% (236)
Choking	56.2%	37.5% (237)
Water Safety	54.6%	5.0% (235)

**Conclusions:** Ohio pediatricians provide families with IP AG at WCC visits, yet many believe that they discuss these issues more than they are documenting these conversations in their charts. Tools need to be developed to help pediatricians document the IP AG discussed at WCC visits so that future evaluation of the effectiveness of this AG can be determined.