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Welcoming max: Increasing pediatric provider knowledge of service dogs

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Service dogs have been used in the adult population for decades. Recently, there has been a diversification in types of service dogs, specifically for the pediatric population. Although guide dogs and mobility dogs are relatively accepted in society, autism assistance dogs, seizure alert and response dogs and diabetic alert dogs are relatively new. As pediatric service dogs attract more media attention, pediatric providers need to be prepared to answer parental inquires regarding service dog use. The pediatric provider is well equipped to identify children who could benefit from a service dog intervention and should be able to make a referral to a reputable service dog provider. This article presents guidance on appropriate patient selection, making a service dog referral where risks and benefits are also involved. Pediatric providers are ideally positioned to be leaders in implementing this evolving new assistive technology that can help to alleviate the pediatric disabilities for both patient and family.

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Climate change and children's health: Can we ignore this threat?

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Climate change, resulting from the anthropogenic production of green house gases, has a disproportionate, negative effect on children's health. As the atmospheric concentration of CO_2 continues to increase, so does the planet's temperature. This increase in the earth's temperature has lead to an increase in extreme weather events, heat waves, droughts, changes in precipitation pattern, sea level rise, change in the prevalence and distribution of infection vectors, poor air quality and food and water insecurity among others. It is estimated that 88% of the existing global burden of disease attributable to climate change occurs in children younger than 5 years. The physiology and immature body systems behavior patterns and dependence on others are for safety and to the vulnerability of the pediatric population to the changing climate. Increasing temperature is directly associated with poor air quality and increased concentration of ground level ozone, a known asthma trigger, affect the incidence of vector and water borne diseases and increase the likelihood of suffering from heat stroke. The outcomes of extreme weather events pose further risk to child development by society disruption, population displacement and toxic stress. Participation in this oral presentation will equip the participants with: 1. Basic knowledge on the science of climate change. 2. Knowledge on the effects of climate change on children's health. 3. Measures to protect children from the deleterious effects of climate change.

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