



Nicklaus
Children's
Hospital

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Milestones

in Medical Education



Special points of interest

- Compliance Corner
- Legislative Advocacy
- Awards and E-Recognitions
- Pharmacy Residency Recruitment
- Trainees, Alumni, & Faculty Publications
- CME News



From the Editor

Spring Is Blooming

This May issue of *Milestones in Medical Education* comes at a busy time of the academic year. As we all associate Spring with blooming, colors, sun, and preparing to pick the fruits of labor, the academic year in March-May is filled with blooming and getting ready for reaping the benefits of hard work. This is the time where trainees who are graduating in June are completing their scholarly work and some are preparing for the next phase of their professional journey (fellowship or workforce). This is also the time where the Department of Medical Education is busy preparing for picking the crops of hard work and for planting new seeds for another fruitful season.

This issue highlights important milestones and achievements that Medical Education trainees and faculty achieved in the past two months:

- ◆ Preparations are underway for celebrating the Class of 2024 Graduation, onboarding new trainees, and helping transition graduates into their next phase of professional journey
- ◆ Trainees continue to receive e-Recognition from peers, colleagues, staff, and patients for their professionalism, humanism, and teamwork
- ◆ Faculty and trainees continue to contribute to the peer-reviewed published literature and continue to present their work on the national stages representing Nicklaus Children's Hospital and its training programs
- ◆ Our CME programs and Board Review course continue to promote our educational mission locally and regionally

As we go into the next two months, we will reflect on the past academic year, give thanks to patients, faculty, and peers, and look forward to a new and exciting year .

Our crops are thriving and some are ready to be picked and exported across the globe to continue to spread knowledge, teaching, new discoveries, research, scholarly work, and care for patients and families... This is our mission and the mission of Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Enjoy reading this issue of *Milestones in Medical Education*.

Rani S Gereige, MD, MPH,
FAAP - DIO



Inside this issue:

Milestones in Faculty Development	2
Milestones in Legislative Advocacy	3
Milestones in Staff Recognition	3
Milestones in Recruitment	4
Milestones in Scholarly Activities	5
Milestones in Chief Residents Selection	5
Milestones in Teamwork & Professionalism	6
Milestones in CME News	8

Milestones in Faculty Development

Compliance Corner - 2024 Split/Shared Services

Background:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have refined several longstanding Split/Shared Evaluation and Management (E/M) visit policies, with the implementation dates being November 22, 2023, and the latest revision effective from January 1, 2024.

A Split/Shared visit refers to a medically necessary encounter in a facility setting where both the physician and non-physician practitioner (NPP) who are in the same group each perform a substantive portion of an E/M

visit on the same date of service with the same patient, but only one practitioner bills for the service.

Compliance
Corner

Split/Shared Timeline

2022 & 2023

- Additional services eligible for Split/Shared billing, such as Critical Care, New Patient, Initial Inpatient Hospital, and Prolonged Services.
- Updated rule defining what constitutes a substantive portion, face-to-face contact requirements, and new Split/Shared modifier -FS.

Starting
January 1,
2024

Based on the Final Rule, “substantive portion” means more than half of the total time spent by the physician and NPP performing the split (or shared) visit, or a substantive part of the medical decision making (MDM). Performing a substantive part of the MDM requires that the physician or NPP makes or approves the plan of care and assumes the responsibility for the patient.

Medical Record Documentation: The medical record must identify the physician and NPP who performed the visit and contain medical necessity for the split (or shared) visit.

If the substantive portion is based on time, each practitioner must document their visit time using the following attestation:

- I Dr. (or NPP) XXXX saw and evaluated the patient, I personally spent XX minutes including assessing and managing the patient and counseling, educating, communicating results to the patient/family/caregiver.

If the substantive portion is based on MDM, the billing practitioner must document the components that they performed regarding the medical decision making or add the following attestation:

- I, Dr. XXX (or NPP XXX), (performed or approved) the critical key elements of the service and personally participated in the diagnosis and management plan.

For additional information regarding Split/Shared guidelines click [here](#).

Reference: [CMS Split or Shared Evaluation and Management Visits](#)

The Billing Compliance team is here when you need guidance on billing, coding, and documentation requirements. Contact the team via email at: BillingCompliance@Nicklaushealth.org

Milestones in Legislative Advocacy

NCH Pediatric Residents Represented the Residency Program at Children's Week in Tallahassee



PGY2 NCH Pediatric Residents **Melanie Hew, MD & Stephanie Blount, DO** were amongst 22 Pediatric Residents from 11 Florida Pediatric Residency Programs participated in the 2024 Annual Children's Week Capitol for a Day Event.

Each year, FCAAP and the Florida Pediatric Foundation (FPF) host the Pediatric Trainee Legislative Advocacy Training Program for medical students and residents from across Florida.

Following participation in FCAAP's 2024 Virtual Legislative Advocacy Training Program, resident advocates from 11 Florida pediatric residency programs accompanied FCAAP leadership to Tallahassee to participate in the annual Children's Week Capitol for a Day event where they got a behind-the-scenes look at the

legislative process and met with lawmakers to discuss pending legislation that impacts children and the practice of pediatrics in Florida. Children's Week, which draws more than 5,000 attendees, is hosted annually at the Florida State Capitol and reminds lawmakers to put kids first while considering bills. At the Children's Capitol for a Day event, participants attended the meetings they scheduled with their local legislators and helped the Chapter and FPF co-host two booths in the Capitol Courtyard to interact with kids and families and to share resources.



Milestones in Staff Recognitions

Institutional GME Coordinator Recognition

Ms. Ana Otero; GME Institutional Coordinator received an NCHS e-Recognition from Ms Uzzielyn Yu, Surgical Inpatient RN for her display of the **NCHS Values**. Ms You commented: *"Ana is very helpful and had gone beyond the "Extra Mile" of Customer Service. I had*

been seeking the help of Education Dept. to complete my Myles, but no one answers my call for more than a week, so I requested to be transferred to Medical. Education. It was a blessing. that Ms. Ana Otero answered my call; it was like a miracle come true even if her

work is not really related to what I am asking for help, she was still very helpful and eager to help me. She is amazing and I will never forget her help and professionalism". Congratulations Ana and thank you for going the extra mile for customer service.

Milestones in Recruitment

The Pharmacy Residency Program Matches the Class of 2024-2025

On **March 14, 2024**, Nicklaus Children's Hospital Pharmacy Residency Program filled its positions in the match program for the Academic Year 2024-2025. The new residents will begin residency training in July 1st 2024.



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Cristella Figueroa (PGY1)

- Student at Nova Southeastern University

Emily Puchades (PGY1)

- Student at Nova Southeastern University

Rachel Benjamin (PGY2)

- Graduate from the University of Florida
- Current PGY1 at Methodist Hospital and Methodist Children's Hospital in San Antonio, Texas



Milestones in Scholarly Activities

NCH Trainees & Faculty Continue to Disseminate Their Scholarly Work in Print and on National Stages

Hot Off the Press

Dr. Bala Totapally along with co-authors Drs. Paul Martinez and Prithvi Sendi were notified that their manuscript titled: **"Epidemiology of Adenovirus Infection in Hospitalized Children in the United States from 1997-2019"** was accepted for publication in the *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*. Congratulations!!!

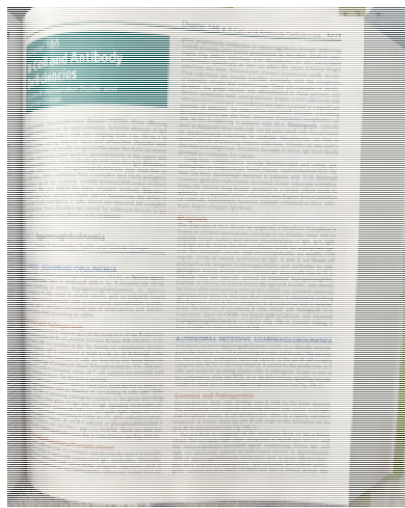
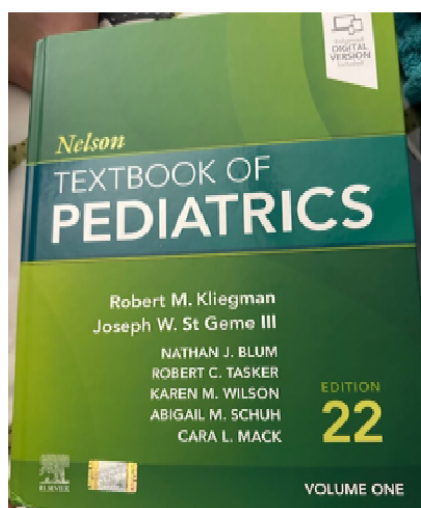
Drs B. Totapally & Ariella Barhen were notified that their manuscript titled: **"Characteristics and compli-**

cations of acute promyelocytic leukemia in children: an analysis of a national database" was accepted for publication in *Pediatric Hematology and Oncology* journal. Congratulations!

Dr. Keith Meyer was one of the multi-institutional co-authors for a manuscript titled: **"Adverse Tracheal Intubation Events in Critically Ill Underweight and Obese Children: Retrospective Study of the National Emer-**

gency Airway for Children Registry (2013–2020)" published in the February 2024 issue of *Pediatric Critical Care Medicine*. Congratulations!!

Drs Vivian Hernandez-Trujillo & Camille Ortega co-authored the chapter on **B-Cell and Antibody Deficiencies** in the 22nd Edition of *Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics*. Congratulations on this milestone.



Milestones in Chief Residents Selection

The 2024-2025 AY Chief Residents Announced

The Nicklaus Children's Hospital Pediatric Residency Program announced the chief residents selected for the AY 2025-2026. Congratulations to **Drs. Melanie Hew & Taimy Falcon-Rodriguez** for being selected to serve as Pediatric Chief Residents for the AY 2025-2026. The Department of Medical Education is excited to work with both chief residents for an additional year. Congratulations!!!



Melanie Hew, MD



Taimy Falcon-Rodriguez, MD

Milestones in Teamwork & Professionalism

NCH Trainees Compliments and e-Recognitions



Christian Martinez, MD (PGY1)

Dr. Christian Martinez received an NCHS-e-Recognition from Ms Oldine Pierre; 5T Clinical Coordinator for his **Excellent Performance**. Ms. Pierre commented: *"I would like to recognize Dr. Martinez for providing exceptional care to our patients. Dr. Martinez is kind, sincere and very caring. Dr. Martinez is great at making sure to close the loop with patients and parents. I always see him updating parents multiple times throughout the day. His compassion and commitment to patient care does not go unnoticed. Dr. Martinez, I truly appreciate all of your efforts to ensure our patients are receiving excellent care and making sure they are kept updated on the plan of care. Thank you for all that you do".* Congratulations Christian on a job well-done!!

Alexis Kowalski, MD (PEM Fellow)



Dr. Alexis Kowalski received an NCHS-e-Recognition from Lourdes Villavicencio; Speech/Language Pathologist for her display of the **NCHS Values**. Ms. Villavicencio commented: *"I went in to the ER with my [.....] a couple of Saturdays ago and Dr. Kowalski was our fellow doctor. [...] had several symptoms that were unrelated and Dr. Kowalski was able to listen patiently*

and tried to figure out why each of the symptoms were occurring. Dr. Kowalski was empathetic and respectful as she spoke to [...]. She took the time necessary to problem solve the issues and was able to do so in a caring manner. Thank you!". Congratulations Alexis. Keep up the good work!!!



Louis Durkac, MD (PGY3)

Dr. Louis Durkac received an NCHS-e-Recognition from Christopher Soto, RN. Mr. Soto commented: *"Dr. Louis Durkac epitomizes dedication and excellence in patient care. Dr. Durkac is always going above and beyond, consistently prioritizing the patients, ensuring their well-being is never compromised. His willingness to extend assistance and expertise beyond expectations reflects his exceptional dedication to the medical workplace. You truly are amazing, thank you for always being positive and for always bringing a smile to everyone around you!".* Congratulations Louis on a job well done!!!

Devarshi Desai, DO (PGY3)



Dr. Devarshi Desai received an NCHS-e-Recognition from Michelle Parmenter, APRN; PICU for her **Excellent Performance**. Ms. Parmenter commented: *"I want to recognize Devarshi for her teamwork. During her PICU elective rotation, she volunteered to take patients to help alleviate the*

work burden for her fellow colleagues. She is always willing to help out and offer her assistance wherever is needed. Devarshi is an amazing coworker to have. She never complains and is always willing to lend a helping hand. I want to thank her for being such a team player." Congratulations Devarshi on a job well done!!!



Pamela Castillo Rocha, MD (PGY1)

Dr. Pamela Castillo Rocha received an NCHS-e-Recognition from Dr. Stephanie Mangels; PGY3 Resident for her **Excellent Performance**. Dr. Thompson commented: *"I had the pleasure of being Pame's senior a few nights on busy 5T and was able to witness firsthand what a great clinician she is. Specifically, we admitted a patient that had been seen several times before in different institutions and by different specialists for a myriad of symptoms, but never given a clear diagnosis. Through thorough history taking and performing a careful physical exam, Pame was able to correctly diagnose scurvy - a condition we do not often see! Pame even followed up on the patient's labs at a later time despite no longer being her provider and learned that she indeed correctly diagnosed the patient. I am so proud of Pame and thankful that this patient was lucky enough to have her as her physician. Keep up the great work, Pame!".* Congratulations Pamela on a job well done!!!

Milestones in Teamwork & Professionalism

NCH Trainees Compliments and e-Recognitions (Cont'ed)



Kristen Valdes,
MD (PGY1)

Dr. Kristen Valdes received two NCHS-e-Recognitions:

- ♦ The first is from Ms Oldine Pierre, 5T Clinical Coordinator for her **Excellent Performance**. Ms Pierre commented: *"I would like to recognize Dr. Valdes for caring and doing an amazing job bonding with her patients. I would also like to recognize Dr. Valdes for her dedication to our patients. Today, Dr. Valdes went above and beyond to discharge a chronic patient who was admitted for over one month. Dr. Valdes went out of her way to check each medication and went back and forth to the pharmacy and the PACT Team office to make sure that the patient had everything she needed to go home. Dr. Valdes also did a great job communicating with the patient's father to make sure she did not miss anything at all. Thank you Dr. Valdes for your unwavering dedication to our patients and the amazing care that you provide"*. Congratulations Kristen on a job well done!!!

- ♦ The second is from Dr. Alia Elnaji, DO (PGY3 Resident) for **Excellent Performance**. Dr. Elnaji commented: *"I would like to recognize Kristen for her diligence, competence and passion in her patient care. She worked tirelessly into the late afternoon to safely discharge a chronic patient of ours. She walked*

down to the pharmacy herself and ensured all the medications were prescribed perfectly and in a manner that would be easy for family to administer at home. It was refreshing to see how much blood, sweat and tears she invests in her patient care". Congratulations Kristen on a job well done!!!

Veronica Echanove Iturralde, MD (PGY3)



Dr. Veronica Echanove Iturralde received an NCHS-e-Recognition from Ms. Briana Santiago, RN ED Nursing for her **Excellent Performance**. Ms. Santiago commented: *"Dr. Echanove picked up a patient this morning whose parents were anxious to leave. She helped deescalate the situation and executed professionalism throughout. With her help we were able to get the patient seen and discharged without complications. Thank you Dr. Echanove for all that you do!"*. Congratulations Veronica on a job well done!!!



Stephanie San Martin, MD (PHM Fellow)

Dr. Stephanie San Martin received a Recognition from Ms Ellie Sulewski, MA; Patient & Guest Relations for her **Excellent Performance**. Ms. Sulewski commented: *"I would like to take a moment to recognize Dr. Stephanie San Martin for going an extra mile (and more) in the care of a patient.*

On Tuesday afternoon, ... a 2-year-old little tourist from Poland was brought by his distraught mom and grandma to the ED suffering from vomiting. The family arrived in Miami last week for a month-long vacation and it appears the little guy became overly enthusiastic with his new learned pool jumping skill and ingested more pool water than he could safely handle. After the initial work up in the ED he was transferred to 2N for observation to make sure that, following the repeated emesis his sugar stabilizes and he is safe to continue learning new skills in Miami. I became involved to assist with the Polish interpretation (as being from Poland and a certified Polish interpreter) as the mom became overwhelmed by the stress of what was happening and found it difficult to communicate beyond the basic conversational English.

Once Dr. San Martin found out that the family, being covered by a standard tourist insurance (it only covers urgent/emergency care) was not going to be able to do the recommended follow up with outpatient pediatrician office (they are not going back to the home country for another month) she offered to do a quick check in with Igor via WhatsApp, which I helped to facilitate. It was a great to see him all recovered and ready to rumble, recognize the doctor that took care of him smiling, and vigorously waving his hand at Dr. San Martin.

Dr. San Martin was one of the several wonderful docs taking care of Igor, and with her warmth and approach made such impression on Igor's family that they wanted to make sure I send their recognition of her to appropriate leadership.

I am happy to report that, according to the family, their experience at NCH was, after the initial stress wore off, comparable to Ritz Carlton. They mentioned everyone, from the security guard at the ED entrance, the ED staff, 2N staff and especially Dr. San Martin as professional and at the same time

warm, and caring. Even things that we take for granted, such as specialized diet menu (the patient is gluten free and grain free), or both mom and grandma being allowed to stay with the child overnight, they marveled about. I will spare you the comparison with the socialized medical care that they are used to in Poland for expediency reasons.

To summarize, there will be tales told about NCH and Dr. San Martin in Poland". Congratulations Stephanie on a job well done!!!



Stephanie Blount, DO (PGY2)

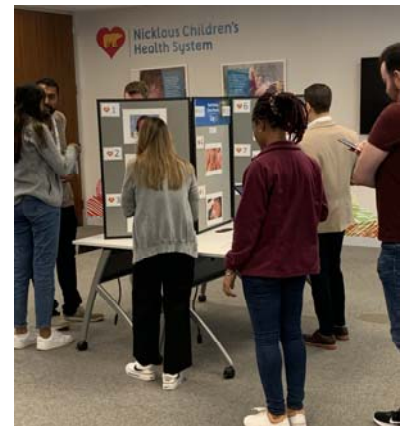
Dr. Stephanie Blount received an NCHS-e-Recognition from Ms. Jenna Lang, NPP; Clinical Effectiveness Program Manager for her contributions to **Improving Quality**. Ms. Lang commented: *"The Clinical Effectiveness leadership team would like to recognize and thank Stephanie for presenting SCD with pain pathway at our meeting and her continu-*

ous effort in driving positive patient outcomes and standardization of care for this patient population. Thank you, Stephanie, for all your hard work. We really appreciate you. Thank you, Dr. Etinger, Dr. Reyes, Jenny, and Jenna". Congratulations Stephanie on a job well done!!!

Milestones in CME News

The 2024 Board Review Course held with Success!!!

The **27th Annual General Pediatrics Review and Self-Assessment** was held May 17-19, 2024 at NCHS headquarters. The course included a blend of didactic core lectures, Poll questions, and Pictures of the Day Visual Diagnoses. Attendees will have access to the virtual content until early December 2024.



NCH Medical Education Team Attends the ACME Annual Education Conference 2024



Medical Education Birthdays

May

Monica Ramirez Mendizabal	4
Ghanavi Kumaran	6
Daniela Albors-Agullo	11
Jessica Valencia	15
George Yacoub	16
Stephanie San Martin	17
Callie Alt	18
Melanie Hew	18
Dianelis Hernandez	21
Alia Elnaji	25
Camila Pabon	25
Milena Sanchez	25
Ana Luiza Graneiro	26
Braden Olsen	26
Khiem Truong	28



June

Andrew Ryu	3
Jasmin Gosey	4
Christian Martinez	4
Stephanie Blount	5
Daniel Tennenbaum	6
Sara Solano Zevallos	6
Alexis Kowalski	7
Lina Ayala Castro	8
Victoria Ko	10
Joselyn Ye Tay	12
Becky Li	13
Madison Rhodes	22
Kristen Valdes	22
Claudia Vega Castellvi	25
Carlos Silva Rubio	27




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To Teach is To Touch a Life Forever