

Targeted Research Initiative on Health Outcomes

Meritorious Research 2009

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Application Title:

Teleneurology treatment for epilepsy for Native Americans

Award Amount: \$75,000

General Audience Summary:

Epilepsy services are available to Native American patients with epilepsy on rural Indian reservations only intermittently. The aim of this proposal is to assess the feasibility of improving patient outcome by 1) using tribal community health representatives (CHRs) trained in epilepsy care to follow up with patients, and 2) increasing the opportunity to consult with the epileptologist through the use of internet based telecommunication. This new approach will be expected to improve continuity of care, patient treatment compliance and their perceived ability to self manage their epilepsy, and decrease seizures, and hospital and emergency department visits.

Michael T. Halpern, M.D., Ph.D.
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Research Triangle Institute
Washington, DC

Application Title:

Disparities in Epilepsy Health Care by Insurance Status

Award Amount: \$35,000

General Audience Summary:

For many patients with chronic health conditions, lack of health insurance is a tremendous barrier to obtaining needed, high-quality medical care. Little is known about how being uninsured or underinsured affects medical care and outcomes for individuals with epilepsy. This study will explore disparities in medical care for individuals with epilepsy who are uninsured or covered by Medicaid or other public programs. Results from this study will help in understanding the nature of these disparities and will guide development of future programs and policies to improve access to care for all individuals with epilepsy.

Andrew G. Herzog, M.D., M.Sc.
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Application Title:

Epilepsy Birth Control Registry

Award Amount: \$ 75,000

General Audience Summary:

Despite the great importance of birth control to women of reproductive age, there has been little formal investigation of the safety and effectiveness of various birth control measures in women with epilepsy. The proposed project will develop and conduct a web-based study to compare the safety and effectiveness of various forms of birth control in women with epilepsy. The ultimate goal is to develop guidelines for the selection and use of various birth control methods and to make sure that the best forms of birth control become available to women with epilepsy in all communities of our society.