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**Injection Protection: Reducing the Pain of Immunizations**

***Free Training Available for Pediatric Primary Care Providers in Connecticut***

Farmington, CT – Pediatric primary care providers across the state have access to free training - in the comfort of their offices - to improve immunization and other injection experiences for children in their practices. *Injection Protection* is the latest training module offered through the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut’s (CHDI) Educating Practices in the Community (EPIC) program. The training draws on many well-researched (but often underutilized) strategies for reducing the pain and anxiety associated with an injection.

“Injections need not be traumatic,” according to pediatrician and pain medicine specialist Dr. Neil Schechter who collaborated with CHDI to develop *Injection Protection.* “In one hour child health providers can learn how to put the latest techniques for reducing the pain and fear of immunizations into practice.”

EPIC uses trained peer professionals to deliver brief on-site presentations over lunch or another convenient time. This model of “academic detailing” has been shown to accelerate the adoption of practice change in areas including: autism screening, asthma care, and pain and fear associated with immunizations. CHDI’s publication*,” Using Academic Detailing to Change Child Health Service Delivery in CT: CHDI’s EPIC Program,”* can be found at [www.chdi.org/epic-impact](http://www.chdi.org/epic-impact).

CHDI’s EPIC program began ten years ago in collaboration with the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians to inform pediatricians and their staff about critical children’s health issues. There are currently 13 EPIC training modules, covering a variety of practice areas, including: developmental and behavioral health screening, care coordination, family-centered care, recognizing trauma, hearing monitoring, oral health and connecting children to mental health services. A training module on maternal depression is being piloted this summer. (*For a complete listing of EPIC modules, visit* [*www.chdi.org/ourwork-signature-epic.php*](http://www.chdi.org/ourwork-signature-epic.php)*).*

Over the past decade, EPIC training has helped nearly two-thirds of Connecticut’s pediatric practices with change strategies to enhance their delivery of primary care services. Benefits also include CME/CEU credits, resource materials, connection with services in the practice’s community, and Maintenance of Certification credits for some modules. EPIC is currently free to practices. Funding has come from both public and private sources.

*To schedule an in-office presentation for any of our 13 EPIC modules, please contact Maggy Morales, [*[*mamorales@uchc.edu*](mailto:mamorales@uchc.edu)*] 860-679-1527.*

*For more information on CHDI, contact Julie Tacinelli* [[*tacinelli@uchc.edu*](mailto:tacinelli@uchc.edu)*] 860-679-1519.*

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