POPULATION HEALTH PROBLEMS



Poverty
Facilitator Notes

Scenario Notes and Clarifications

Schedule of Growing Skills - a standardised assessment tool used by many health visitors for the routine developmental assessment of 2 to 2.5 year olds.

Developmental delay - used to describe a child not attaining milestones as expected. It may also be termed Early Developmental Impairment. Global Developmental Delay describes a delay in two or more domains.

All children with developmental delay should undergo investigations to look for possible causes. There have been previous links between iron deficiency anaemia and impaired development, although current evidence as to whether this is causation or correlation is inconclusive.

Discovery of iron deficiency is very common when screening for causes of developmental delay. Low ferritin without anaemia is often treated with dietary measures first; iron supplements are usually used first line for iron deficiency anaemia. Children may have co-morbidities (eg constipation, restricted eating habits) that influence choice of medication vs diet if borderline.

Discussion Prompts

Community Paediatric trainees will also be aware of signs of neglect, many of which overlap with signs that a child may be living in poverty. Asking about poverty is not always routinely asked about in clinic appointments. WHAM project do teaching sessions so some trainees will have come across ‘one minute script’ before.

Knowledge about local resources and national resources might be limited.

What do you include in your clinical management plan?

- Management of Iron Deficiency Anaemia
- Considering Neglect vs Poverty

How do you ask about poverty?

WHAM (Wellbeing & Health Action Movement) have developed a one minute toolkit

- **The One Minute Script:**

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"Many people are currently struggling financially, **and** this has a direct impact on health. Because of this, we are now asking **all** our patients some questions on how they are managing, and offering resources that can support them through tough times. I can reassure you that your answers to these questions have no impact on your care, and you don't have to answer"

- **In the last 12 months:**
  1. Have you been worried that you wouldn't be able to pay your bills?
  2. Have you been worried that your food would run out before you had money to buy more?
  3. Have you had any problems with your housing?

What advice do you give?

- *Signposting*
- *Healthy Start Scheme* - *www.healthystart.nhs.uk* for parents of children under 4 to buy healthy foods, milk, fruit and free vitamins
- *Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme* - free travel to appointments
- For difficulties with rent increases:
- *Citizens advice www.citizensadvice.org.uk*
- *Shelter www.shelter.org.uk*

Useful Resources for Trainees

https://www.whamproject.co.uk/making-a-difference

https://stateofchildhealth.rcpch.ac.uk/evidence/family-and-social-environment/child-poverty/

https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/key-topics/child-health-inequalities-poverty

This week the Scottish Government published their third tackling poverty plan, 'Bringing Hope, Building Futures, Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2026-2031', and for the first time, a Children's version has also been published. As per The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, the plan sets out how the government intends to achieve statutory child poverty targets to reduce this significantly by 2030. Six priority family types are set out, of which 90% of families living in poverty are in at least one of these, but many span more than one, creating additional intersectionality compounding challenges. Action focuses on three drivers, 1. income from employment, 2. cost of living, 3. income from social security. The new plan has a focus on actions under the heading, 'Supporting children and families to thrive':

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https://www.gov.scot/publications/bringing-hope-building-futures-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2026-2031-annex-6-impact-policies-child-poverty/

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