CONTENTS

COMMENTARIES

3 Time-Limited Certification
   Errol R. Alden

4 Changes in 1988/1989
   Robert J. Haggerty

ARTICLES

5 Near Drowning
   John G. Brooks

11 Measuring Health Care Quality
   Donald M. Berwick

17 Sleep Problems in Children
   Betsy Lozoff and Barry Zuckerman

25 Foreign Bodies in the Air and Food Passages
   Margaret A. Kenna and Charles D. Bluestone

ABSTRACTS

16 Autism

31 Subglottic Hemangiomas in Infants

Cover: Boy With Baseball, by George Luks (American artist of the Ash Can school—1867-1933). Son of a physician from Williamsport, PA, he studied art in Philadelphia and Europe before settling in New York, where he worked as a newspaper illustrator and cartoonist. Then he pursued a career as a painter. His work, like the other Ash Can artists, depicted life in the raw. Boy With Baseball, done in the early 20th century, is illustrative of his work. This appealing portrait of a street urchin, done in broad brush strokes, with a baseball, symbolizes the all-American game. This is an appropriate motif for PREP 2-year 4, when sports medicine and physical fitness are special topics for review.

The printing and production of Pediatrics in Review is made possible, in part, by an educational grant from Ross Laboratories.

Commentary

Time-Limited Certification*

Since its inception, the Chapter Forum has passed a number of resolutions regarding time-limited certification. In 1986, the Forum instructed the Academy to develop other than cognitive examinations to evaluate pediatric competency. In 1985 and 1986, you complimented PREP and asked that the American Academy of Pediatrics work to have as much influence on the recertification process as possible. Much progress has been made.

The Executive Boards of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Board of Pediatrics meet together two times per year. A significant number of practicing pediatricians, as well as active members of the Chapter Forum, serve on the committees that will establish the recertification exams.

In November 1985, the American Board of Pediatrics established a policy of time-limited certification which became effective May 1, 1988, for individuals certified in general pediatrics. Original certificates issued after this date will be valid for 7 years. Physicians certified prior to this date will not be affected by the new policy, although those who choose to do so may renew their certification on a voluntary basis. The requirements for certification renewal will be the same for those who hold time-limited certificates and those who hold permanent certificates; only the degree to which individuals feel obligated to participate will differ.

The ABP has recently announced additional information about their plans for time-limited certification. The program will include each of the following four components: (1) a cognitive examination, (2) a review of the pediatrician’s daily professional activities in the form of a record review, (3) an evaluation of the pediatrician’s ability to diagnose pediatric problems, and (4) an evaluation of his or her ability to manage pediatric problems. The program will be a multifaceted one, designed to measure various important aspects of a physician’s competency. Each of the four components will be given entirely on computer diskettes so that the program can be completed in the participant’s home or office or in various test centers. Computer sophistication will not be required to complete the program.

For the cognitive examination portion of the program, the pediatrician will be able to choose to take two core examinations in general pediatrics or one core examination in general pediatrics and one of four profile examinations. The profiles will include the following topics: profile A—Infectious Disease, Respiratory Disease, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Disease; profile B—Metabolic Disease, Fluid and Electrolyte Problems, Nutrition, Genitourinary Disease, Gastrointestinal Disease; profile C—Behavioral Disorders, Emotional Disorders, Family Dynamics, School Adjustment Problems, Adolescent Adjustment, Delinquency, Drug Abuse; profile D—Neurologic Problems, Mental Retardation, Handicapped Child, Learning Disorders. Each of the profile examinations will be offered every year.

The record review will be a self-audit with the individual physician reviewing his or her own records and responding to questions about them on a computer diskette. The diagnosis and management problems will use the computer to present information about a patient and ask the physician to choose among lists of history, physical, laboratory, and management items.

Subspecialty certification will be on the same cycle as that for general pediatrics. Individuals who complete subspecialty certification within 7 years of their general pediatric certification will be on a 7-year cycle for both, beginning with the date of the specialty certificate. Subspecialists will be required to pass a separate cognitive examination in general pediatrics (written by subspecialists) as well as in their subspecialty area. Time-limited certification for subspecialists will be phased in as follows: for those certified in pediatric pulmonology, beginning with the first examination in 1986; for those certified in pediatric critical care medicine, beginning with the first examination in 1987; and for all other subspecialists certified after April 30, 1988.

Several committees have been appointed to work on the time-limited certification program. They are as follows: (1) Planning Committee; (2) the EQUIP (Evaluating Quality in Practice) Committee, which is responsible for designing and effecting ways to evaluate all aspects of the pediatric practice, not just the pediatrician’s cognitive abilities; (3) the Core Test Committee, responsible for developing the content specifications for the Core examinations in general pediatrics; and (4) the Profile Committees, which will develop the content specifica-

Self-Evaluation Quiz—CME Credit

As an organization accredited for continuing medical education, the American Academy of Pediatrics certifies that completion of the self-evaluation quiz in this issue of Pediatrics in Review meets the criteria for two hours of credit in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association and two hours of PREP credit.

The questions for the self-evaluation quiz are located at the end of each article in this issue. Each question has a SINGLE BEST ANSWER. To obtain credit, record your answers on your quiz reply cards (which you received under separate cover), and return the cards to the Academy. On each card is space to answer the questions in five issues of the journal: CARD 1 for the July through November issues and CARD 2 for the December through April issues. To receive credit you must currently be enrolled in PREP or a subscriber to Pediatrics in Review— and we must receive both cards by June 30, 1989.

Send your card to: Pediatrics in Review, American Academy of Pediatrics, 141 Northwest Point Blvd, PO Box 927, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927.

The correct answers to the questions in this issue appear on the inside front cover.