

QI initiative cuts health care use in children with epilepsy

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(HealthDay)—A quality improvement (QI) initiative can reduce

emergency department and health care utilization for children with epilepsy, according to a report published online Jan. 20 in *Pediatrics*.

Anup D. Patel, M.D., from the Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and colleagues aimed to decrease seizure-related [emergency department](#) visits by 20 percent, from a baseline of 17 to 13.6 visits per month per 1,000 [patients](#). They used the Institute for Healthcare Improvement model to develop a QI project, with a defined outcome to decrease emergency department utilization for children with epilepsy. They determined the rate of emergency department visits and unplanned hospitalizations for [epilepsy patients](#) and associated [health care](#) costs.

The researchers observed a 28 percent reduction in emergency department visits 19 months after implementation of the interventions (from 17 to 12.2 visits per month per 1,000 patients; P

"Applying QI methodology was highly effective in reducing emergency department utilization and unplanned hospitalizations for children with epilepsy at a free-standing children's hospital," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the biopharmaceutical industry.

More information: [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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