

### **UNC Beacon Nutritional neglect/FTT and Medical Neglect Guide:**

\*\*Page Beacon at 123-4100 for phone support if complicated cases, re-admissions, challenges in communications with DSS

\*\*Report any suspicious concerns for neglect to Child Protective Services as required by law. DSS may be a helpful resource to families. Remember, reporting to DSS does not mean the caregivers intentionally neglected the child, it is important to instead focus on the child's needs not being met.

#### **Nutritional neglect Work-up:**

- Perform appropriate medical work-up to rule out organic causes of failure to thrive
- Nutrition consult
- Hospital social work consult
- Review chart and prior growth parameters
- If concerns for inadequate nutrition in home environment (signs of refeeding, child demonstrates ability to gain weight well in hospital on home feeds), try to identify any barriers that may be contributing to this and provide caregiver support. However, report to DSS if suspicious concerns for neglect. DSS can be a helpful resource to families.
- Consider having a family meeting with family and DSS prior to discharge
- If child has a g-tube or other complex needs, consider having caregivers perform a 24 hours of care to ensure their understanding and ability to meet the child's recommended needs

#### **Medical neglect work-up:**

- Hospital social work consult
- Obtain and document as much objective information that may support medical neglect to include:
  - Review of medical records to see how many missed or cancelled appointments the child has had or if there has been a loss to follow-up with medical providers. Also see if there is prior documentation of caregivers not following medical advice
  - Call pharmacy to verify dates of prescription refills
  - Obtain drug levels as appropriate, such as AED levels
  - Contact other service providers to see if there have been lapses in other needs such as therapy services

- Try to identify any barriers that may be contributing to this and provide caregiver support. However, report to DSS any suspicious concerns for neglect. Clearly communicate if there are concerns for the caregivers being able to meet the child's complex medical needs. DSS can be a helpful resource to families.
- Consider having a family meeting with family and DSS prior to discharge
- Consider having caregivers perform a 24 hours of care to ensure their understanding and ability to meet the child's recommended needs