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Medication Errors Involving Pediatric Patients

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In an effort to educate consumers and healthcare providers on the “Safe Use of Over-the-Counter Pain Relievers,” New York State co-branded the Food and Drug Administration’s brochure “Kids Aren’t Just Small Adults.” Attached order forms elicited a great response from New York physicians requesting materials on safe use of medications specifically in children. This reaffirmed data obtained from New York Poison Control Centers which estimated a significant number of calls related to over-the-counter medications in the pediatric and adolescent populations. With the assistance of a maternal and child health grant, the Patient Safety Center set out to create a second set of educational materials to reduce the incidence of medication errors by educating caregivers.

A literature review revealed a best practice in New York of shaken baby syndrome in which a video was created and legislated to educate parents on the dangers of shaking a baby. With this in mind, the Patient Safety Center in conjunction with the Food and Drug Administration was able to pursue and obtain an unrestricted educational grant from the Consumer Healthcare Products Association through their newly launched Consumer Healthcare Education Center. Once created, the video will be added to hospital television programming nationwide.