

Implementing a Point-of-Care Ultrasound Curriculum for Pediatric Resident Physicians

**Danielle Hamilton, MD (LLU); Jordan Smith, MD (LLU); Constanza Burciaga Calderoni, MD (LLU);
Gabrielle Pina, DO (LLU)**

Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) is the utilization of ultrasound imaging at the patient's bedside. POCUS has been shown to improve outcomes in both adult and pediatric populations, particularly in the critically ill (3, 4). Emergency medicine residencies have largely pioneered ultrasound education over the past decade (5). Despite its far reaching benefits, POCUS has not been widely implemented in pediatrics (1, 2). There is a need for an effective POCUS curriculum within pediatric residency programs. We developed and implemented a POCUS curriculum for pediatric residents at our institution. Primary endpoints include resident comfort, confidence, and competence in interpreting and performing POCUS imaging. Secondary endpoints include resident-reported frequency of POCUS utilization in clinical practice. Residents' knowledge was assessed via pre- and post-tests. Lectures and hands-on training sessions were provided to pediatric residents in the hospital setting. Training was provided to POCUS educators to standardize learning. Preliminary findings show improvement in pediatric resident comfort, confidence, and competence in performing and interpreting POCUS imaging. The next steps may include 1) forming an ultrasound track for highly motivated pediatric residents to provide longitudinal educational experiences and 2) assimilating image portfolios to be able to better assess and provide feedback on image quality and interpretation.

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Danielle Hamilton, MD is a 2nd-year resident at Loma Linda University Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program. She has 6 years of ultrasound teaching experience and has trained hundreds of medical students, residents, and attending physicians both locally and abroad. Her goal while in residency is to establish a POCUS curriculum at her pediatrics program with hopes to improve patient care. Email: dhamilton1@llu.edu