# Pediatric Red Flags

Marsha Blount MSN APRN CNLCP LCP-C
MB Consulting Services LLC
MBlountAPRN@aol.com

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# Disclosures

No Conflicts of Interest

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# Learning Outcomes

- Identify how kids are **different** and what makes them *unique*.
- List at least three Red Flags with associated diagnostic concerns.
- Discover what the more common malpractice claims data are in neonates and pediatrics.
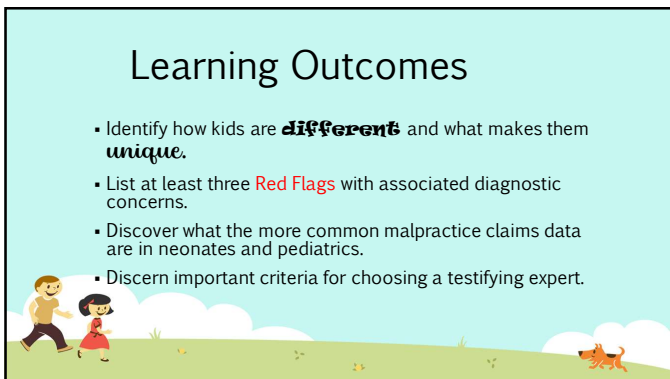- Discern important criteria for choosing a testifying expert.

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## How are kids **different**?

- Big heads, fontanels and soft bones
- Narrow airways
- Temperature regulation is poor
- Poor coordination
- Small veins and lots of sub-q fat
- Immature reasoning skills
- Rely on others for safety and communication
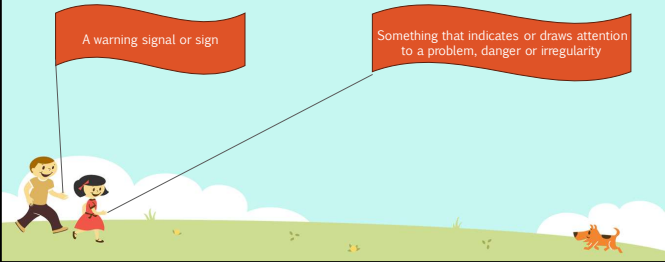
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## What makes them *unique*?
...or persnickety little boogers!

- Weight based care
- Fluids and blood loss
- They keep their veins "close to the chest"
- ....and they keep their vitals signs closer.

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## Red Flags

A warning signal or sign

Something that indicates or draws attention to a problem, danger or irregularity

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## Neuro

- Lethargy, unable to awaken
- Irritability, meningismus
- Bulging fontanels, change in head circumference
- Seizures
- Gait disturbance
- Change in developmental milestones

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## Cardiac

- Hypotension/Hypertension
- Large heart on Xray
- Tachycardia/Bradycardia
- Capillary refill
- Tripod/squat position
- Mottled

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## Pulmonary

- Work of breathing, chest pain, wheezing, cough
- Tachypnea/apnea/belly breathing
- Nasal flaring and intercostal retractions
- Drooling
- Head bobbing
- Unable to talk, eat, play or ....play video games, hang with friends, sports
- Tachycardia at rest

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## Gastrointestinal

- Abdominal distention
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Refusing to eat
- Refusing to poop/cant poop
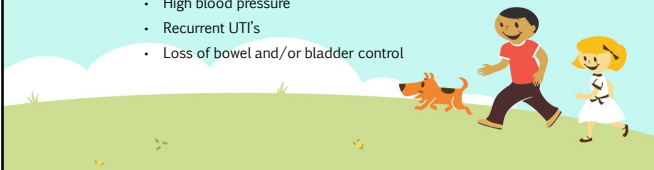- Signs of blood in stool or emesis

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## Musculoskeletal

- Not using an extremity
- Hot or pain to touch
- Will not walk or crawl
- Tilt of the head to one side/looking one direction

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## Kidneys

- Foul smelling urine, blood in urine
- No wet diapers
- Can't pee/won't pee
- High blood pressure
- Recurrent UTI's
- Loss of bowel and/or bladder control

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## Other Organs/Systems

- Enlarged Liver/Jaundice
- Sudden and severe pain on one side of testicle/high riding
- Rash, blistering, swelling, bites, open areas
- Fever/hypothermia
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Combination of more than one flag

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## Pediatric Med-Mal Claims

### Study of Malpractice Claims Involving Children

Darrell Ranum JD- Patient Safety and Risk Management

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## Can you guess?

Let's Play A Game!

- MD Specialty
- Average number of years after event that claim is filed
- Most common treatment location of injury/illness
- Most commonly injured body part
- Age with highest rate of death
- Most common allegations
- Most common contributing factors
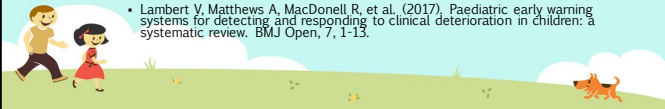
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## Choosing an Expert

- Neonates versus Pediatrics
- Teens and Adults (special needs)
- Diagnosis specific
- MD/APRN/RN/LPN
- Specialist versus Hospitalist
- State and Standard of Care

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### References

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Questions?

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