

DIALOGUE 165

Timeout! Calling the Right Play for Children with Severe Neurological Impairment

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Noon, Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Mailman Center for Child Development, Room 3023

A light lunch will be provided; space is limited; note variant time and venue.

Children with neurological impairment endure limitations of cognitive and physical functioning. Many of these children develop life-limiting comorbid conditions that severely affect the ability to eat, drink, breath, or to perform other basic, living activities. To mitigate the severity of these conditions, escalation of intense, invasive, and expensive treatments often occurs. Although these treatments improve survival, they can adversely affect the quality of life of the child and family. Who decides which treatments to employ? What role is played by society and government? What conflicts of interest are present? How can we do the right thing – *that is, call in the right play* – for children with severe neurological impairment?

Dr. Berry is a general pediatrician and hospitalist with the Complex Care Service in the Division of General Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital. He is also Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Berry leads the multisite Complex Care Quality Improvement and Research Collaborative, which strives to optimize health outcomes, healthcare spending, and health resource use for children with medical complexity.

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