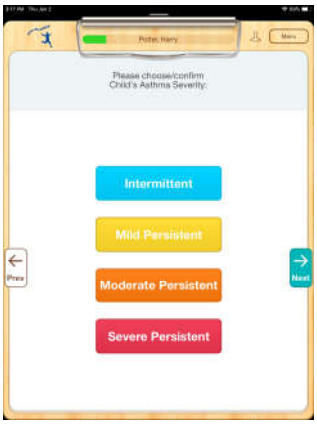
THE ASTHMA CENTER
AT CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER
STATEWIDE EASY BREATHING© NEWS
MAY, 2020

EASY BREATHING GOES DIGITAL

Easy Breathing© has officially gone digital!

Prior to the spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the Asthma Center received funding from the Cigna Foundation to develop a digital version of Easy Breathing.



With this funding, we developed a digital version of Easy Breathing© on an iPad-based platform called Tonic©. We have been piloting digital Easy Breathing at Community Health Services (CHS) in Hartford since May 2019 with great success.

Patients with asthma complete all Easy Breathing forms, including asthma surveys and asthma control tests, on a tablet. Providers then create severity-appropriate treatment plans on the tablet that can be shared with school nurses.

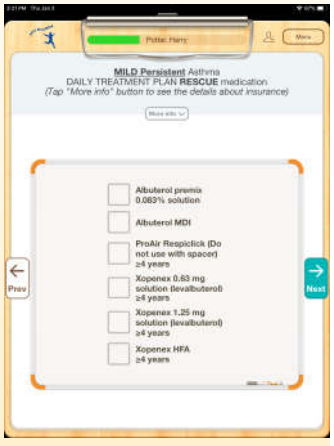
The results are encouraging. We hope to continue to see Tonic simplify and streamline vital care for patients with asthma.

HIGHLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHT ON: COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

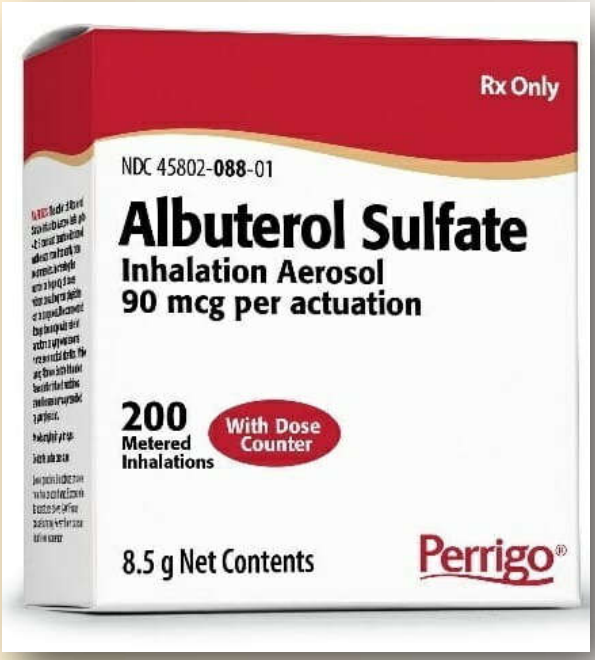
The COVID-19 pandemic has placed new pressure on providers to adapt to the rapidly-changing healthcare landscape. Innovative solutions are more welcome and needed now more than ever.

Like many other healthcare providers adjusting to the virus, CHS has limited their in-person visits and quickly shifted to providing telehealth visits for routine care.



Without hesitation, CHS had the ingenuity to fold digital Easy Breathing into their telehealth visits. They have prioritized patients with asthma for telehealth visits to assess asthma control and make sure asthma treatment plans are up-to-date, ensuring that patients with asthma continue to receive the same quality of care they experienced prior to the shift.

CHS has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to asthma care through their use of this innovative digital solution. As we adjust to conditions under COVID-19 we hope to continue meeting change with practical, forward-thinking innovation.



https://www.empr.com/home/news/generics-news/first-generic-version-of-proair-hfa-approved/

FDA APPROVES FIRST GENERIC ALBUTEROL INHALER

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first generic albuterol sulfate-based inhaler as demand surges amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The decision follows a reported "shortage of albuterol inhalers, which have been found to also help those suffering from COVID-19."

According to HealthDay, reporting on 4/8, "the inhalers are widely used by people with asthma, but it's become more difficult to get them because they're being used to treat patients with COVID-19." The new generic Proventil HFA (albuterol sulfate) Metered Dose Inhaler, 90 mcg/Inhalation, is to be manufactured by Cipla Limited.

The decision comes one month after the FDA's revision of product-specific guidance for proposed albuterol sulfate metered dose inhalers, including products referencing Proventil HFA. According to the FDA's official press announcement, the FDA "requires applicants to submit appropriate data and information to demonstrate that complex generic drug-device combination products meet the agency's rigorous approval standards."

"The FDA recognizes the increased demand for albuterol products during the novel coronavirus pandemic," assures FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn. "We remain deeply committed to facilitating access to medical products to help address critical needs of the American public."

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SUMMARY OF AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY PEDIATRIC COVID-19 TOWN HALL WEBINAR

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, one thing is clear: now more than ever, asthma control is vital. While asthma management practices remain largely unchanged, there has been a significant drop in asthma-related admission to emergency departments in the US. One hypothesis is that this is due to widespread reluctance among patients with asthma to seek emergency care. There is also the possibility that physical distancing measures have led to decreased transmission of upper respiratory infections typically circulating among school-age children that are often triggers of asthma exacerbations.

In the outpatient clinic setting, the majority of specialists are using MDIs to manage asthma, while the use of metered dose albuterol inhalers is being limited to COVID-affected patients in inpatient settings to save on critical shortages.

Telemedicine has evolved rapidly under COVID-19, helping connect patients to asthma care providers while granting providers the ability to peer into the homes of patients. The results have been eye-opening, allowing providers to examine the day-to-day environments of their patients and pick up on potentially hazardous or exacerbating conditions right in the home. However, as telemedicine is typically practiced based on the patient's location, out-of-state telemedicine practices run up against issues of medical licensure. Although most states have relaxed their telemedicine guidelines in light of the pandemic, it is important for providers to be aware of out-of-state rules and regulations when engaging in healthcare through telemedicine.

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