



STATEWIDE

Easy Breathing News



Fall 2012

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Easy Breathing Recertifies for MOC!

The Easy Breathing program has been recertified through 2014 by the American Board of Pediatrics as an activity that meets Part IV of the Maintenance of Certification. We are very excited that the program was approved for **40 points**; we think this is the greatest number of points that an activity can receive. The multiple measurements of quality and the duration of the program (>12 months-3 month run-in/baseline and 12 months of program activity) were major factors in obtaining approval for 40 points. Individuals who are currently enrolled in the Easy Breathing MOC program and are certifying by the end of this year will receive 40 points. Individuals who plan to enroll in the program moving forward will also receive 40 points.

The recertification process allowed us to review our successes in the program and to better define expectations for certification as we move forward. The 35 individuals who have or are certifying in Easy Breathing MOC completed more than 100 Surveys/Asthma Control Tests in the 12 month MOC program activity window. For this reason, we have created the following expectations for successful completion of Easy Breathing MOC as we move forward:

1. Individuals should engage 100 children/encounters over the 12 month period (25/quarter) in Easy Breathing. This includes newly enrolled children (via an Easy Breathing Survey) with and without asthma as well as children with asthma who have a follow up asthma control assessment using the Asthma Control Test. So a clinician who has enrolled many of the children in their practice in Easy Breathing (i.e. already completed an Easy Breathing Survey) could do most of their activity in follow up visits for asthma using the cACT ages 4-11 or the ACT ages 12 & up (follow up visits are not "unique" visits but could include multiple visits from the same child over the course of the year).
2. Any quarter in which the number of engaged/enrolled children falls below 25 requires completion of a plan of action form. Remember that the goal of MOC is to improve practice and if you are not meeting the target, then you need to create a plan to meet that target. If you need to re-certify by the end of a year (e.g., 2013), your baseline period will be the third quarter of 2012 and you will begin the MOC process in the last quarter of the year (in this case 2012). That will allow for 3 quarters of activity in 2013 and recertification during the 4th and last quarter of 2013. Moving forward, when you enroll in Easy Breathing MOC, we will provide you with a timetable for your various activities. Currently enrolled individuals will be certified during this 4th quarter of 2012.
3. An attestation form stating that you implemented a quality improvement program using Easy Breathing must be submitted to the Easy Breathing program before final certification of the activity can be made.

This "100" requirement does not apply to those who are already in the MOC certification process and will certify by the end of 2012 but action plans and a final attestation form are still required.

So what happens if you don't reach the "100" mark? Of all the individuals previously enrolled in MOC, two did not meet this requirement and one was not certified. If this happens, however, we will look at the quality of your Asthma Treatment Plans, the action plans that you have prepared and the progress that you have made to achieve this goal. Our goal is to help you to use Easy Breathing to meet the spirit and the letter of the ABP's MOC Part IV dictate but it is not a "free" ride.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Michelle Cloutier at (860)545-9442 or e-mail her at mclouti@ccmckids.org.

From July 2007 to September 2012, Easy Breathing® Statewide Initiative has surveyed 38,707 children. Of the children surveyed, 24% have a diagnosis of asthma. In total, 110,138 children have been surveyed since 1998.

Great Job!

Top Producing Sites per District for Quarter 7/1/2012-9/30/2012

District 1: Center for Pediatric Medicine (Danbury)

District 2: Pedi-Care Pediatrics

District 3: Grove Hill Medical Center (Plainville)

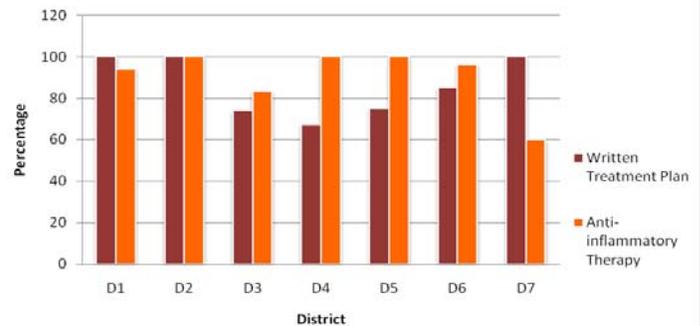
District 4: Hartford Area Pediatrics

District 5: Meriden Pediatric Associates

District 6: Long Wharf Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, LLC

District 7: East Lyme Pediatrics Clinic, LLC

Outcome Measures for Quarter 7/1/2012-9/30/2012



Lisa Jordan has left the Easy Breathing program to assume responsibilities at Connecticut Children's for the institutional MOC program. We will miss Lisa, and wish her the best in her new position!

Program Goals

100% for Written Treatment Plans for children diagnosed with persistent asthma.

95% for Anti-inflammatory Therapy for children diagnosed with persistent asthma.

Important Updates from the Asthma Center

- ⇒ Please note: The nurse at the CCMC Asthma Center that was performing allergy skin testing and pulmonary function testing has left her position. Since testing is no longer available, we suggest the following:
1. For pulmonary function testing call the Pulmonary Function Laboratory at CCMC at 860.545.9447 to make an appointment for spirometry testing before and after bronchodilator inhalation.
 2. In terms of allergy testing, it is important to know a positive test does not always equate to clinical allergy as well as the advantages and disadvantages to both serum allergen-specific IgE testing (sIgE) and skin prick testing (SPT). Based on our geographic region and the common allergens to which children are exposed and sensitized, we recommend ImmunoCap (enzymatic assay based on anti-IgE antibodies) testing using the New England Panel to which you would add dog and cat dander testing. There are several companies that perform this testing and you will need to confirm with them what screening test is most appropriate to use. We do not recommend RAST testing any more as the enzymatic assays have replaced them. There are new guidelines for allergy testing and a short article that is very useful can be found in the January 2012 edition of *Pediatrics*. (Sicherer SH, Allergy testing in childhood; Using allergen-specific IgE tests. Vol 129 (1) January 2012 page 193).



Spotlight on Community Health Services!

Community Health Services (CHS) re-implemented the Easy Breathing program on August 13, 2012! Clinicians enroll two patients per day. Children diagnosed with asthma receive an Asthma Control Test and Written Asthma Treatment Plan as needed at follow up visits. Thank you to the entire staff for all your hard work!