



STATEWIDE EASY BREATHING NEWS

November 2010
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Easy Breathing is Approved for Part 4 of Maintenance of Certification!

I am pleased to report that Easy Breathing has received approval from the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) as a quality improvement program for Part 4 of maintenance of certification. The ABP was blown away by your success and use of the program. Physicians who participate in Easy Breathing and meet ABP completion requirements will receive credit for the Performance in Practice component of Maintenance of Certification (MOC). To be eligible to use Easy Breathing to meet Part 4 of MOC, you must be actively engaged in the program.

So what do you need to do?

- Notify the Asthma Center 12 months in advance of your re-certification date. This will allow us together to assess where you are and then for you to create a plan for where you want to be.
- Provide the Asthma Center with an estimate of the number of unique children either in your panel or in your practice. This estimate is essential in determining where you are in the program (actively enrolling, assessing asthma control etc)
- Compare your current performance (data provided by Asthma Center) in the program with the target goals for each outcome measure. The goals and outcome measures are as follows:
 - ◆ % of children in your practice/panel who have been surveyed. The goal is at least 10% enrollment per year.
 - ◆ % of children with asthma who have a documented asthma severity. The goal is at least 90%.
 - ◆ % of children with persistent asthma with a written treatment plan. The goal is at least 95%.
 - ◆ % of children with a treatment plan that adheres to the national guidelines. The goal is at least 95%.
 - ◆ % of children with a yearly assessment of asthma control. The goal is at least 80%.
- If you have not met the goals for the outcome measures, then you will need to create a plan to improve these measures. Each quarter you will receive a report which will need to be reviewed, progress assessed and a new plan created (if needed). This process of improvement is called many different things but is often referred to as a PDSA cycle (plan, do, study, act).

What will the Asthma Center do?

- Provide you with run charts which show your progress toward the goals for each outcome measure. These charts will be provided initially and quarterly so that you can see if your improvement plan has been successful.
- If you don't know how to do a PDSA cycle, we can help you create the structure to do this.

How does the certification process work?

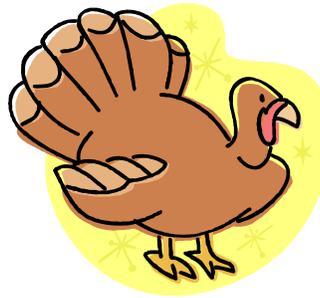
- You choose Easy Breathing as your MOC project from the list ABP provides.
- You complete the ABP form related to your use of the program and provide a run chart showing usage. You can use the charts we have given to you.
- You send /FAX the report to the Asthma Center. I then go online and approve your report as evidence of a successful QI project.

You are also strongly encouraged to use the Easy Breathing program to address other aspects of your asthma management. For example, you could examine asthma control in terms of the number of composite scores (such as the Asthma Control Test (ACT and Childhood ACT)) that you distribute (a requirement for certification if you have enrolled most of the children in your practice) and the average composite score of your patients with asthma. You could then develop a plan to increase both the use and the average score of the ACT. We can provide you with data about this if you have provided us with copies of your ACTs.

We are very excited about this new feature of Easy Breathing and we look forward to “rewarding” you for your participation in this program. If you are interested in pursuing use of Easy Breathing for MOC in Pediatrics, speak to your program coordinator or call me directly.

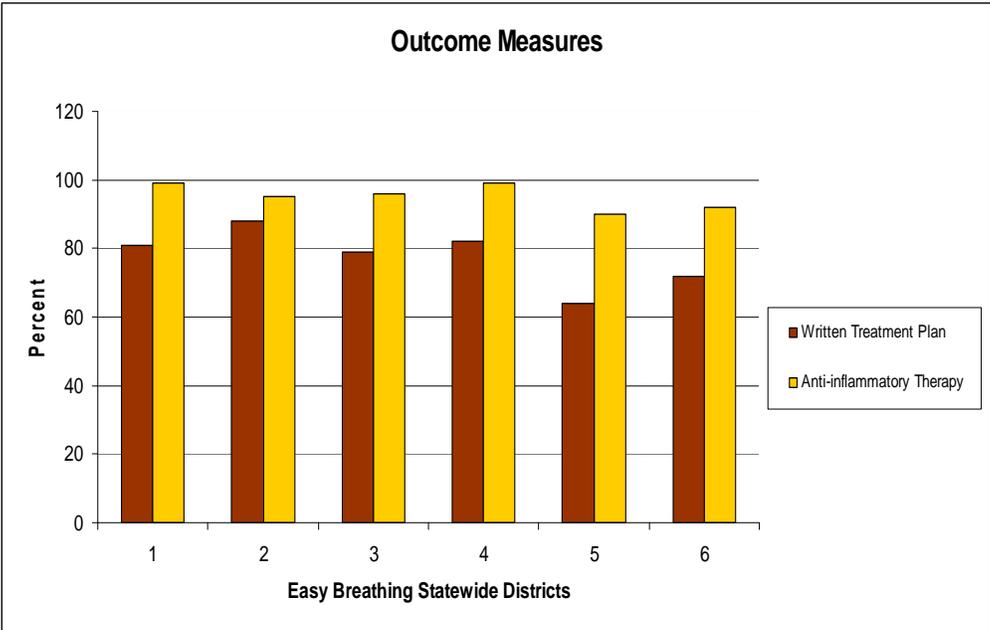


From July 1, 2007– June 30, 2010, Easy Breathing Statewide Initiative has surveyed **23,219** children. Of the children surveyed, **22%** have a diagnosis of asthma. In total, **94,649** children have been surveyed since 1998.



**Top Producing Sites
 Per District for Quarter
 7/1/10 - 9/30/10**

- District 1**
St. Mary's Hospital (Children)
- District 3**
ProHealth Physicians
(Drs. Banack and Smith-Statas)
- District 4**
Vernon Pediatrics
- District 5**
Norwich Pediatric Group
- District 6**
Shoreline Pediatrics (Madison)



FYI:

New Combination Asthma Medication Available:
 Dulera (combination of mometasone and formoterol) manufactured by Merck & Co. has been FDA approved for patients 12 years of age and older for treatment of moderate-severe persistent asthma. There are 2 strengths: 100mcg/5mcg and 200mcg/ 5mcg. It comes as a metered-dose inhaler and has a dose counter.

***Program Goals:**
 100% for Written Treatment Plans for children diagnosed with persistent asthma
 95% for Anti-inflammatory Therapy for children diagnosed with persistent asthma

Funding for Easy Breathing Continues

We received our contract from the State for Easy Breathing for 2010-2011 without interruption with thanks to Eileen Boulay and the Department of Public Health for their help and assistance. This particular contract runs through 2012 and hopefully next year will go equally smoothly.

At the same time, however, we remain concerned about program interruption and have been working with our Medicaid vendors to create an additional stream of funding for the program. This past six months we have provided consultation to two of the Medicaid vendors in CT and we are working now to create a plan that supplements the program by targeting specific members. In any such plan, all children in a practice will remain eligible for enrollment in Easy Breathing but we will provide assistance to target certain members of various plans. This supplemental program will also allow us to actively recruit new practices and to provide linkages between the practice and disease managers supported by the HMO for children for whom Easy Breathing is not sufficient to manage their asthma. I hope you will agree this is a win:win for everyone. We will keep you informed as to the progress of these negotiations. If you have any questions please speak to your program coordinator or Michelle Cloutier directly.