

# STATEWIDE EASY BREATHING NEWS

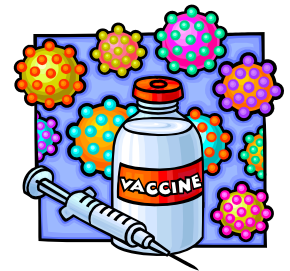


September 2009,  
Sara Martel, Editor

*Michelle M. Cloutier, M.D.*

H1N1 or swine flu first appeared in April 2009 and reached proximity to US soil shortly thereafter. In June 2009, the World Health Organization declared the H1N1 infection to be pandemic and production of an H1N1 vaccine began. The anticipated time for vaccine distribution is October and multiple (probably 2) injections will be needed. The H1N1 vaccine does not protect individuals from influenza and thus, separate vaccines and injections will be required. Young children may be more likely to be affected as compared to older individuals since the older individuals appear to have been exposed to a similar virus in the 1970s and may have some immunity. Current recommendations from the CT Department of Public Health for vaccination include:

- Pregnant women
- Children ages 6 months to 4 years
- Children ages 5-18 years of age with a chronic medical condition (including asthma)
- Individuals who care for children
- Health professionals with direct patient contact



To aid you in ordering vaccine, we have attached a list of your patients with asthma who are enrolled in Easy Breathing. This list may be helpful to you during vaccine administration time to determine who has been immunized and who has not. At the present time, the plan is to ship vaccine directly to clinician's offices. It has been announced that vaccine will be made available at no charge. You can register to receive the H1N1 vaccine by visiting [www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch/providers](http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch/providers) or by calling the Department of Public Health Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.



### \*\*\*\* Breaking News \*\*\*\*

Easy Breathing was funded in the current CT State budget. Like many programs it was, however, severely reduced in funding. Our plan is to continue to support practices using the program although the number of personnel will be significantly decreased. For you, it means you may be seeing some new faces less frequently than historically. But I want to assure you that our commitment to you and to children with asthma is unwavering and as strong as ever.

### **An Update on Leukotriene Inhibitors: Montelukast ( Singulair), Zafirlukast(Accolate), Zileuton (Zyflo, Zyfol CR)**

In April 2009, the FDA completed its review of neuropsychiatric events, possibly related to drugs that act through the leukotriene pathway. The post-market reports of patients on these medications included cases of neuropsychiatric events: cases of agitation, aggression, anxiousness, dream abnormalities and hallucination, depression, insomnia, irritability restlessness, suicidal thinking and behavior (including suicide) and tremor. Due to these findings, in June 2009, the FDA requested that manufacturers include a precaution in the drug prescribing information.

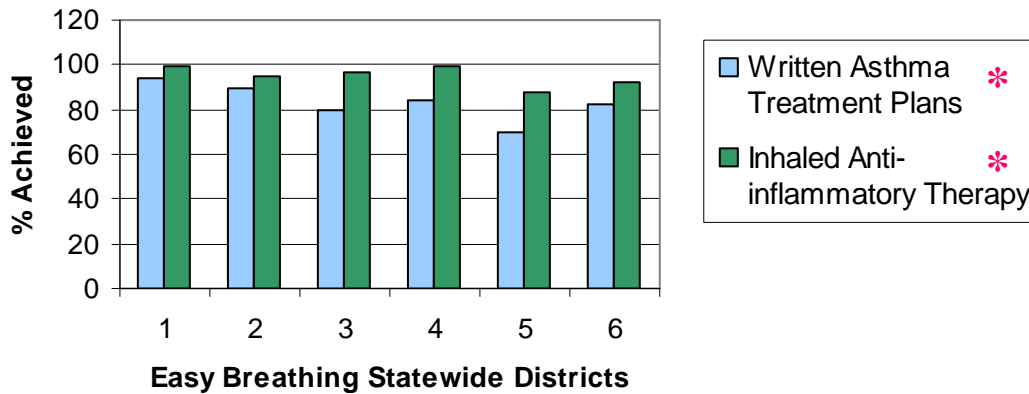
From July 1, 2007– June 30, 2009, Easy Breathing Statewide Initiative has surveyed **14,639** children. Of the children surveyed, **24%** have a dx of asthma. In total, **86,038** children have been surveyed since 1998.



**Top Producing Sites Per District**

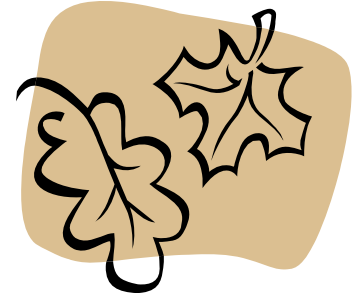
<b>District 1</b> Center for Pediatric Medicine (Danbury)
<b>District 2</b> Pediatric Healthcare Associates
<b>District 3</b> Ramanan, Balakrishna and Quadri, MDs
<b>District 4</b> Windsor Pedicorp
<b>District 5</b> Norwich Pediatric Group
<b>District 6</b> Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine, PC

**Outcome Measures for period of April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009**



**\*Program Goals:**

100% for Written Treatment Plans for children diagnosed with asthma  
 95% for Inhaled Anti-inflammatory Therapy for children diagnosed with persistent asthma



**Did you know.....?**

**1.** That the short-acting beta 2-agonist brand inhalers (SABA) have differences in expiration dates....here is a breakdown:

Brand	Product Life
ProAir HFA	24 months
Proventil HFA	24 months
Ventolin HFA	6 months after pouch removal
Xopenex HFA	18 months

**2.** That Ventolin HFA inhaler is the only Albuterol MDI with a dose counter.

**3.** That Intal (Cromolyn Sodium) is no longer being manufactured by King pharmaceuticals, but will remain available until all supplies are gone.