



STATEWIDE

Easy Breathing News

Spring 2012

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Easy Breathing and the Medical Home Model

I just came back from the annual meeting of the Medical Home Asthma Champions sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics. This is a group of general pediatricians and specialists who represent their respective states and have as their goal a desire to move forward asthma care within the medical home. I know for some of you what I am about to write is "old hat" and pretty basic. But if you are one of the many pediatricians who are struggling to understand both what a Medical Home is today and how you can move your practice toward a more Medical Home Model of providing care, here are some of the ideas and suggestions brought forth by different individuals at the meeting specifically around asthma.

1. Within your own practice identify 5-10 children with asthma who are experiencing difficulty with asthma control or other co-morbidities/psychosocial issues that impact their asthma. Highlight these children in your scheduling system. The day before their next appointment, have your nurse or other appropriate individual call the mother. The goals of the call are not just to remind her of the appointment and encourage her to keep it but to see how the child is doing and what issues the mother would like discussed at the appointment. Also remind her to bring in her child's inhaler and spacer. If you do spirometry in your office make sure someone will do the testing etc. If the mom tells you she went to the ED or saw a specialist since the last visit, make sure you have the reports and review them before the appointment. Remember while it sounds like a lot, this is only for 5-10 of your sickest children with asthma. This brief advanced preparation will facilitate the appointment and make it more efficient and effect as well as improve parent (and your) satisfaction. As you get better and better at doing this, expand this activity to the sickest/most difficult to treat children throughout your practice.

2. When sending a child to a respiratory specialist, make sure the reason for the referral is clear. It doesn't have to be lengthy but don't just write "asthma". Perhaps it is asthma with adherence issues or asthma with psychosocial stresses or asthma with loss of control at school or asthma with unresolved nocturnal cough. Also make sure it is clear if this is a one time consult or a consult for on-going care. You will get a better consult and will be more likely to get your specific issue addressed.

3. If you co-manage a child with a specialist make sure all parties including the mother know who to call for what. The biggest issue for parents is trying to figure out who is "driving the bus".

There is so much more. But this is a place to start. If you have ideas or thoughts about how to improve the processes of care for asthma, let me know and I will share them with everyone. Next time I will write about how to create a specialty clinic for asthma in your practice. Several of you have done this and I will use you as the models.



SAVE THE DATE! WORLD ASTHMA DAY 2012 MAY 1, 2012

Sponsored by the Central Connecticut Health District and The Region II Asthma Coalition

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER RESOURCE ROOM, 7:30 - 8:30AM, Capital Building Room 310

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST 8:30—10:00AM Legislative Dining Room next to Cafeteria



Coordinator's Corner

From July 1, 2007– December 31, 2012, Easy Breathing® Statewide Initiative has surveyed **32,718** children. Of the children surveyed, **24%** have a diagnosis of asthma. In total, **104,159** children have been surveyed since 1998.

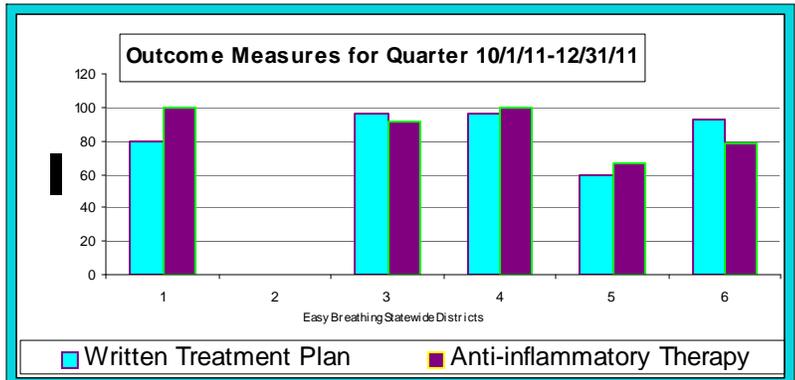


Kelly Sullivan, Family Nurse Practitioner, is the Easy Breathing Coordinator for Southwestern Connecticut. She has been with the program since the start of the Statewide Initiative in 2007. Kelly has worked in the local community for 15 years. She has worked on various asthma groups throughout the region in order to help local providers in caring for children with asthma.

She can be reached at 203-709-3851, or Kelly.sullivan@stmh.org

Top Producing Sites per District for Quarter 10/1/11 - 12/31/11

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|------------|--------------------------------|
| District 1 | St. Mary's Hospital (Children) |
| District 3 | Pediatric Assoc., P.C. |
| District 4 | Vernon Pediatrics |
| District 5 | Meriden Pediatric Assoc. |
| District 6 | East Haven Pediatrics |



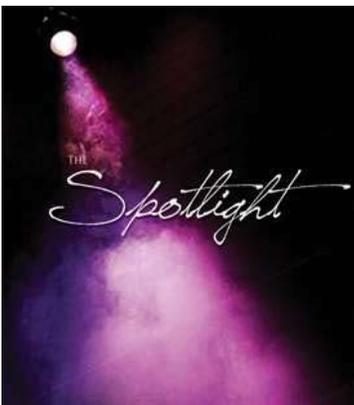
Program Goals:

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

- ⇒ MOC, Part IV with Easy Breathing Deadline is March 31, 2012 for pediatricians who must recertify with the ABP in 2012. Please request a Letter of Intent to participate by contacting the Asthma Center at 860-545-8852.
- ⇒ Effective February 1, 2012 Asthma and Environmental Allergy Testing Clinic Services will be temporarily suspended until further notice. Please contact our main number 860.545.9442 for any questions.
- ⇒ New 2012 Treatment Selection Guides (Buffets) are being distributed to Easy Breathing practices. Private insurance and Medicaid formularies are combined onto one Buffet this year due to CT's Medicaid ASO-CHNCT.
- ⇒ The families of all children with Medicaid, enrolled in Easy Breathing and diagnosed with asthma, are now eligible to receive disease management follow-up and education from a nurse with specialized training in asthma through our partnership with CHNCT.



Spotlight on East Haven Pediatrics!

East Haven Pediatrics implemented the Easy Breathing program in November 2010 and have enrolled approximately 1000 children into the program! Medical assistants prep the charts by placing surveys in every chart on a daily basis with the goal to survey all children in their practice age 2 and above. Children diagnosed with asthma receive an Asthma Control Test and updated Written Treatment Plan as needed at follow up visits. Dr. Shi Jen Cheng reports that "East Haven Pediatrics is excited to be part of Easy Breathing and finds it a very valuable tool. We have invested time and energy into it and have seen wonderful improvements in our patients". Thank you to the entire staff at East Haven for all your hard work!