



Pediatric & Medical Associates, PC Creates an Asthma Clinic

Recently Dr. Ronald Angoff with Pediatric and Medical Associates, PC (PMAPC) in New Haven and Cheshire sat down with us to discuss how his practice implemented an asthma clinic. About five years ago, PMAPC implemented an asthma clinic where they could perform spirometry, educate and assess their asthma patients—they call these visits “Easy Breathing Visits”. The practice sees 400-500 children with asthma a year, so an asthma clinic is a great way to get these patients into the office for follow-up visits. The asthma clinic had a very successful start and is still running today!

Based on staff availability, PMAPC blocks off extended time in the schedule for “Easy Breathing Visits”; if this block of time does not fill up by a certain date, staff will schedule other types of visits. Up to two children with asthma can be scheduled at one time. During an “Easy Breathing Visit”, a Medical Assistant performs spirometry if the child is old enough and reviews inhaler technique; all of the medical assistants and nurse practitioners are trained in spirometry. After the spirometry is completed, a nurse practitioner reviews the results with the patient and the asthma treatment plan is reviewed and refill prescriptions or new treatment plans are completed. The patient can also see their primary care doctor at this point in the visit if needed. For patients who do not come in for an “Easy Breathing Visit”, staff members send reminder postcards. These postcards are similar to ones that are sent out to remind patients to schedule their annual physical exams. Overall, about 80 patients come to these “Easy Breathing visits” each year - approximately 18% of their asthma population.

Dr. Angoff provides the following advice for practices that are thinking about implementing an asthma clinic: provide good training for staff members. Training all of the medical assistants in spirometry is valuable and can aid in the success of the clinic. Dr. Angoff also shares that, “With some of the families that were resistant to annual flu vaccines, bringing the kids in for spirometry allowed us to reinforce how serious this is.”



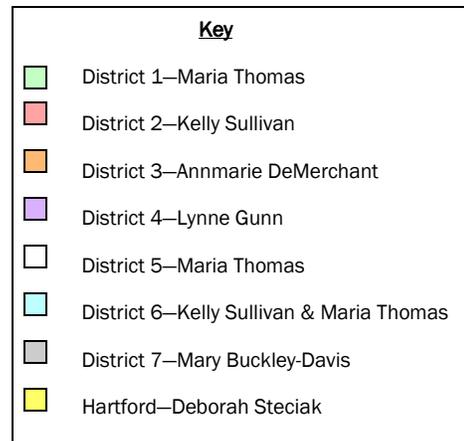
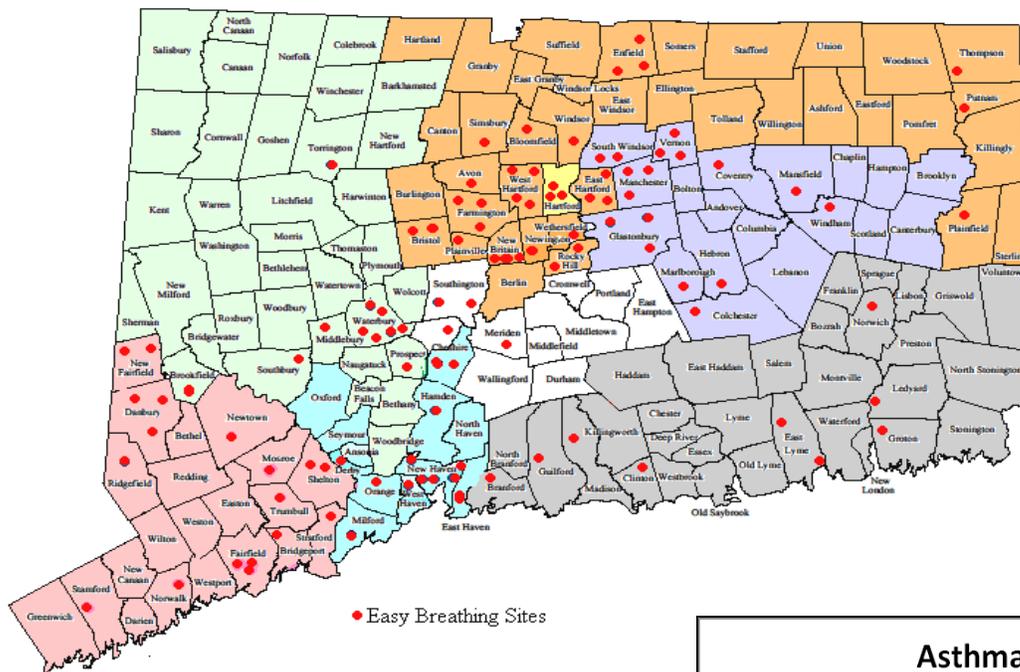
Photo: A patient at PMA during an “Easy Breathing Visit”

An asthma clinic can be beneficial in many ways, and can be a great opportunity to provide patient education. Dr. Angoff and the entire staff at Pediatric and Medical Associates in New Haven and Cheshire have proven that implementing an asthma clinic is an efficient and effective way to give their asthma patients the care they deserve.

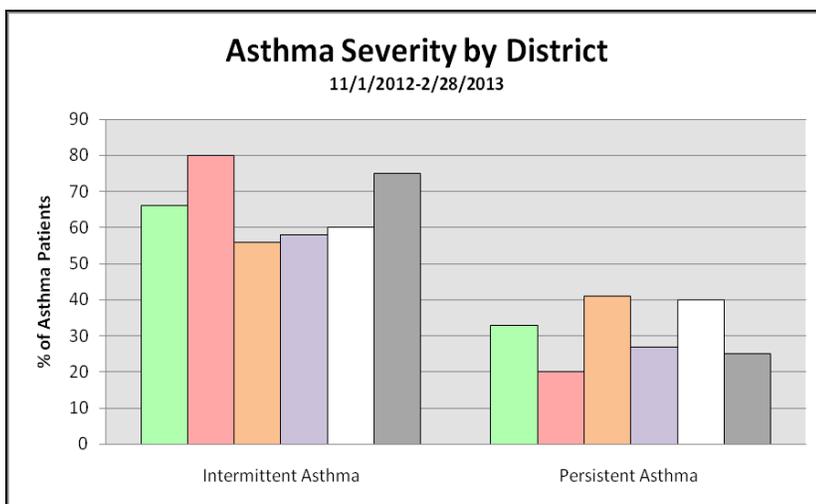
Great Job!

From July 2007 to February 2012, Easy Breathing® Statewide has surveyed 43,345 children. Of the children surveyed, 28% have a diagnosis of asthma. In total, 114,783 children have been surveyed since 1998.

Easy Breathing Statewide



Top Producing Sites (11/1/2012–2/28/2013)	
District	Site Name
1	Center for Pediatric Medicine, Danbury
2	Pedi-Care Pediatrics, Shelton
3	Hospital of Central Connecticut, Dept of Pediatrics
4	East Hartford Community Healthcare
5	Pediatric Associates of Cheshire, PC
6	Long Wharf Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, LLC



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 that Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Pulmonary Medicine Department is *no longer accepting Allergy Skin Testing referrals*. Only patients of the CCMC Primary Care Clinic can be referred to the Pulmonary Department for Allergy Skin Testing. ImmunoCap testing is a good alternative to allergy skin testing and is available through most if not all of the commercial laboratories in our area.

Also, please note that the Asthma Center *no longer sees patients*. The Asthma and Environmental Allergy Skin Testing Clinic has been temporarily suspended.

Children’s Center for Community Research

Michelle M. Cloutier, MD
Asthma Center Director

For more information contact:

Jessica Hollenbach, PhD
Director of Asthma Programs
282 Washington, St
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 860-545-8852
Fax: 860-545-8250

E-mail:
jhollenbach@ccmckids.org

