



## Results from Provider Feedback Survey

Recently, Easy Breathing providers were asked to participate in a survey to help us better understand whether you would be able and willing to continue using the program in the absence of funding. Your feedback is summarized here and has helped inform the next steps we take as a program as our State faces a budget crisis.

Due to the absence of a State budget, we have been notified by the Department of Public Health that Easy Breathing will no longer be funded. Therefore, we have decided to shut down the program Statewide. This is unfortunate, as we have sustained the program for almost 20 years, and you have provided state-of-the-art, guidelines-based asthma care to your patients.

### *What does this mean for you, your practice, and your patients?*

- You can still use the program and we encourage you to do so. **66%** of you responded that you would still use the program without a Coordinator. Please make copies of the Survey, Treatment Plans, and Asthma Control Tests for use in your office.
- **72%** indicated the preferred method of transferring forms was via fax. We would like to still receive copies of the forms you collect so that we can remain in communication with you and provide some limited feedback on treatment plan quality.

### Highlights

- Provider Feedback Survey results
- CME and MOC
- Pulmonologist's Corner
- ATS Respiratory Health Award
- Personnel Changes

### *Where do we go from here?*

- The majority of providers (**87%**) indicated they would be likely to use Easy Breathing if it were integrated electronically into the EHR.
- We are currently working to digitize Easy Breathing on an electronic platform! Our goal is to pilot the electronic version in one or two clinics in Hartford, then scale it up for dissemination.
- We will apply for funding to support this effort.

### **Are you currently participating in Easy Breathing MOC Part 4 or CME for the Advanced Practitioner?**

If so, then you will have to mail, fax, or email all of your completed Easy Breathing forms to the Asthma Center so that we can track your progress, award you with the appropriate number of credits, and approve your recertification by the ABP for Part 4.

**FAX:** 860-837-5342

### **MAIL:**

Asthma Center

Connecticut Children's Medical Center

282 Washington Street

Hartford, CT 06106

**Send via secure EMAIL to:** [EasyBreathing@connecticutchildrens.org](mailto:EasyBreathing@connecticutchildrens.org)

## Pulmonologist's Corner—Dr. Tregony Simoneau, Asthma Center Co-Director

- ◆ Current asthma guidelines are from the 2007 NAEPP EPR3 outlining step-up therapy for persistent asthma—updated guidelines are expected in 2018.
- ◆ New asthma medications:
  - ◆ ProAir RespiClick is a dry powder albuterol inhaler which does not require a spacer but should only be used for those over 12 years of age who can properly activate a dry powder inhaler.
  - ◆ AirDuo is a generic ICS/LABA combination, also a dry powder inhaler, containing fluticasone and salmeterol (similar to Advair Diskus, but as a generic, may have better coverage by private insurance plans)—not currently on the treatment selection guide as it is new since the last update!
- ◆ Spirometry is recommended to help determine asthma severity for children over age 5 years. If your office is interested in being trained in performing and interpreting spirometry, please contact us!
- ◆ When to refer to an asthma specialist:
  - ⇒ **Difficulties achieving or maintaining control of asthma**
  - ⇒ **Children 0–4 years of age requiring medium dose ICS (moderate persistent severity)**
  - ⇒ **Children 5–11 years of age requiring high dose ICS (severe persistent)**
  - ⇒ **If additional education is indicated**
  - ⇒ ***The child has had an exacerbation requiring hospitalization***



### American Thoracic Society's 2017 Respiratory Health Awardee

During the American Thoracic Society's International Conference held in Washington, DC in May, Dr. Cloutier received the Public Service Award. The Public Service Award recognizes contributions to public health related to improvement of indoor and outdoor air quality, eradication of tobacco usage, prevention of lung disease, improved management of communicable respiratory diseases, or improvement in the ethical delivery, and access to healthcare in areas related to lung diseases, sleep disorders, or critical care. There is a special emphasis on efforts that have the potential to eliminate gender, racial, ethnic or economic disparities.

Dr. Cloutier was nominated by her fellow colleagues for this prestigious and competitive award. We congratulate her on achievements and are grateful for her commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of children in CT.

### Important Updates from the Asthma Center

- ◆ Michelle M. Cloutier, MD, Creator of Easy Breathing and Founding Director of the Asthma Center, stepped down as Director in January 2017 and became Professor Emerita. The Asthma Center is now led by Tregony Simoneau, MD and Jessica Hollenbach, PhD, the Co-Directors of the Asthma Center.
- ◆ Autherene Mitchell, the Easy Breathing Program's Database Systems Analyst, will be leaving the Asthma Center as of 9/1. We appreciate her hard work during her 11 years with the Asthma Center and wish her luck in her future endeavors.



### **CONTACT EASY BREATHING**

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