

ASTHMA NEWS AND NOTES

AUGUST 24, 2012



Asthma Program

Topics for the week:

Ohio Department of Health Asthma Program

- New Ohio Surveillance System for Asthma (OSSA) reports available soon!
 - Hospitalization, 2004-2009
 - Ohio Asthma Monograph, 2012
- Ohio School Asthma Initiative to launch soon
- **Last call for the Asthma News and Notes survey sent out**

Ohio Asthma Coalition News:

- **2012 Ohio Asthma Research and Education Conference – October 5**
- **Ohio Asthma Advocacy Award – Nominate Now!!**
- **Last minute poster presentations being accepted.**

Anything Asthma:

- Azithromycin for Bronchial Asthma in Adults
- Monoclonal Antibody Works in Severe Asthma
- High Pollen Counts Tied to ED Visits for Asthma
- Perkins+Will Releases First-Ever Report on Astmagens and Asthma Triggers in the Built Environment
- Choosing Wisely: 5 Don'ts in Allergy and Asthma Testing
- Vaccination of Healthcare Workers to Protect Patients at Increased Risk of Acute Respiratory Disease CME
- Peanut and tree nut consumption during pregnancy and allergic disease in children—should mothers decrease their intake? Longitudinal evidence from the Danish National Birth Cohort
- Whooping Cough Cases Jump Eleven Percent in the United States
- Asthmapolis: Public Health Data in Action
- Combination Nasal Steroid–Antihistamine Is More Effective Than Either Agent Alone
- Mepolizumab Controls Eosinophilic Asthma Flare-ups
- New Resource for School Staff on Asthma and Physical Activity

COPD

- COPD Staging Needs Fine Tuning
- COPD Essentials for Health Professionals
- Glycopyrronium Bromide Powder Inhaler Helpful in COPD
- Current Best Practice in Pulmonary Rehabilitation for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Disparities

- Minority Children Affected by Disparities in Asthma Health Care

Influenza and Vaccines

- Cases of Novel Swine Influenza Surging
- Vaccination of Healthcare Workers to Protect Patients at Increased Risk of Acute Respiratory Disease CME
- Pertussis Is Rising! Why Aren't You Vaccinating Adults?

Clinical Issues:

- PCORI Seeks Comments on Methodology and Patient-Outcomes
- Organization launches case-management accreditation program
- Many providers prefer paper for patient education, study shows
- Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science
- NCQA launches case-management accreditation program
- Organization endorses 12 patient-centered quality measures
- Safety net providers show better care coordination

Medication Issues:

- 'Son of Advair' Lung Drug Submitted for Approval
- FDA Approves Generic Singulair
- 2 firms debut generics of Sunovion's bronchospasm drug Xopenex
- FDA OKs Watson's generic of AstraZeneca's Pulmicort Respules

Continuing Education:

- Improving Children's Health Through Federal Collaboration Webinar Series
- Interested in forming strategic community partnerships to achieve optimal asthma management in schools?
- July 10, 2012 CDC Asthma Webinar – PowerPoint Presentations Available
- June 2012 CDC Asthma Webinar – PowerPoint Presentations Available

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ASTHMA PROGRAM:

New Asthma Data To be Published

Two new comprehensive reports will be out soon from the Ohio Surveillance System for Asthma: Hospital Discharges for Asthma Report, 2004-2009 and The Burden of Asthma, 2012. A smaller report about asthma deaths in Ohio, including 2010 data, is also forthcoming. These reports will be available on the ODH and OAC websites, as well as in print.

For more information contact:

Cynthia H. Weiss

Asthma Epidemiologist

Bureau of Environmental Health

Ohio Department of Health

Cynthia.Weiss@odh.ohio.gov

614.728.3620

Ohio School Asthma Initiative

The Ohio School Asthma Initiative will launch soon with distribution of a letter of introduction to the program and an assessment tool for a principal to self-rate how "asthma-friendly" his/her school is. This assessment and accompanying program evaluation materials will be sent to over 4,000 principals at the beginning of the school year. The initiative will provide resources in tools in six different areas: policy, education, health and mental health, healthy environment, physical activity and family and community. Some of the initiative tools remain under development, but we're proud to announce the release of "Staying in the Game with Asthma" which is an online training for coaches and physical education

Free Online Training about Asthma for Coaches and Teachers

Staying in the Game with Asthma
A Training Guide to Keeping Students With Asthma Active and Healthy

Staying in the Game with Asthma
Managing Students with Asthma

Common Symptoms:

- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain or tightness
- Throat, eye or ear/neck
- Excessive use of rescue or additional inhalers to breathe
- Trouble to focus or speak full sentences

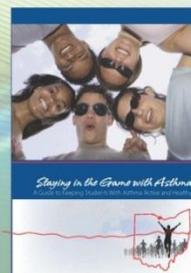
When Symptoms Occur:

1. Stay calm
2. Stop activity immediately
3. Notify parent about
4. Follow student's Asthma Action Plan
5. Help student use rescue inhaler immediately
6. Do not allow return to activity until symptoms are gone!

Call 911 if:

- You don't know what to do
- Rescue inhaler not working
- Other red symptoms are listed in emergency indications on Asthma Action Plan
- Lips or fingernails turning blue/gray
- Extreme difficulty breathing, speaking, or drinking liquids

ODH
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OHIO ACTION PLAN
OHIO ACTION PLAN



Free Booklet and Clipboard Sticker

teachers to learn more about how to support student athletes with asthma.
For more information email: Mandy.Burkett@odh.ohio.gov

Last reminder to take the Asthma News and Notes survey sent

The last reminder to take the Asthma News and Notes survey has been sent out by our evaluation team at Strategic Research Group (SRG). If anyone didn't receive a reminder, please email annsurvey@websrg.com or call 800-341-3660. The more input we get the better we can tailor this newsletter to meet your needs. Thanks for taking the time to give us this needed feedback.

OHIO ASTHMA COALITION NEWS:



Save the Date!!!!

2012 Ohio Asthma Research and Education Conference – October 5

Registration is coming soon!

Be sure to stay tuned to this newsletter and to the Ohio Asthma Coalition Website
www.ohioasthmacoalition.org for notices of the opening of registration!

We have some really great speakers on a wide variety of new and exciting developments here in Ohio, all organized into four categories: Environmental, Educational, Clinical and Technical. You will be able to choose from five topics in each of four breakout sessions to tailor this meeting to your needs.

The goal of this conference is: To identify evidence based trends in asthma research, education, and care.

The objectives for the conference are:

1. Identify new tools to use in practice with patients with asthma to improve clinical practice and improve asthma control.
2. Describe the types of clinical and home care that effectively help patients do self-management.
3. Develop linkages between clinical practices, emergency departments, home visit agencies, and other community based efforts that work to reduce asthma reactions to triggers and improve asthma outcomes.

The Save the Date flyer and agenda is attached*

Nominate Now!

for

Ohio Asthma Advocacy Awards

The Ohio Asthma Coalition gives two advocacy awards biennially during the Ohio Asthma Research and Education Conference. As in past years the coalition is seeking nominations for the Ohio Asthma Legislative Advocacy Award and the Ohio Asthma Advocacy Community Award. For these awards anyone may nominate candidates who have gone over and above the expectations of their job and have a record of active community and/or legislative advocacy for people with asthma in Ohio.

Previous winners of the Award include:

- Senator Sherrod Brown for his support of the Clean Air Act
- Mr. Gary Greenberg for his work in educating home childcare providers about asthma

2008

- Ms. Barbara Johnson for her advocacy of the Ohio Epi-pen School Carry Law and an update of the Ohio Asthma Inhaler School Carry Law
- Dr. Shalini Forbis for her work with public television and the American Lung Association to promote appropriate settings and policies for children with asthma in schools and childcare settings and for her four years of service as Chair of the Ohio Asthma Coalition
- And a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Tom McCleary for his advocacy work with the Greater Cleveland Asthma Coalition and the American Lung Association for people with asthma

2006

- A legislative award to Senator Mike DeWine for his many years of advocacy for people with asthma and for his promotion of funding for the Asthma in American Cities Grants, and for creation of the National Asthma Program.

The award nomination forms are attached and the deadline has been extended to Sept. 15.

Last Minute Posters Still Being Accepted!

If you have not submitted your asthma poster session yet please contact Cynthia Weiss to obtain the abstract requirements and forms. Cynthia.Weiss@odh.ohio.gov or 614-728-3620.

ANYTHING ASTHMA:

Azithromycin for Bronchial Asthma in Adults

Background: Macrolides have antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties that may be useful in the treatment of chronic asthma. **Conclusions:** Adults with asthma who were randomized to azithromycin did not show statistically significant improvement in asthma outcomes, although the study was underpowered to detect clinical improvement in 15% (number needed to treat = 7). Adults with severe persistent asthma who elected the parallel open-label (OL) azithromycin treatment arm documented clinical improvements in asthma symptoms, asthma quality of life (AQL), and asthma control that persisted after completion of OL azithromycin (number needed to treat = 2). Source: *J Am Board Fam Med.* 2012;25(4):442-459. © 2012 American Board of Family Medicine. [Medscape](#) (8/14/12)

Monoclonal Antibody Works in Severe Asthma CME

The monoclonal antibody mepolizumab (Bosatria) was able to reduce exacerbations in patients with severe eosinophilic asthma, researchers found. In a randomized trial, patients taking any of three doses of mepolizumab had significant reductions in asthma exacerbations compared with those given a placebo infusion (P<0.0001 to P=0.0005), Ian Pavord, MD, of University Hospitals of Leicester in England, and colleagues reported in the Aug. 18 issue of *The Lancet*. Source: Pavord ID, et al "Mepolizumab for severe eosinophilic asthma (DREAM): A multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial" *Lancet* 2012; 380: 651-659. [Medpage](#) (8/20/12)

High Pollen Counts Tied to ED Visits for Asthma

Days of the year with the highest pollen counts also tend to see a greater number of emergency department visits for people with asthma, according to a new study. The main pollen culprits tied to the increase in hospital visits came from oaks and grasses, whose levels spike in the spring. "For people who have an allergy component to their asthma, using the tools of pollen surveillance and public health warning systems...can help with behavioral management of symptoms for people who are affected by these diseases," said lead author Dr. Lyndsey Darrow

from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. Source: *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2012, <http://bit.ly/QeoWQ8>. [Medscape](#) (8/8/12)

Perkins+Will Releases First-Ever Report on Asthmagens and Asthma Triggers in the Built Environment

Leading global interdisciplinary design firm Perkins+Will today released a new report examining the detrimental impact of building materials and products on asthma. The report, *Healthy Environments: A Compilation of Substances Linked to Asthma*, identifies 374 substances commonly found in the built environment that are known or suspected asthmagens. Perkins+Will's expertise in building materials prompted *Healthy Environments*, which is being published in hopes of raising awareness of the connection between health and buildings while identifying existing sources of information so that healthy buildings will result. Also included is detailed information on the occupations and industries that come into the most contact with these potentially hazardous materials. The report's findings were compiled from an analysis of eight lists of published research from both academic and government sources. [Perkins Wills](#) (8/8/12) PR Newswire (<http://s.tt/1kj0Z>)

Choosing Wisely: 5 Don'ts in Allergy and Asthma Testing

Choosing Wisely[®], an initiative of the American Board of Internal Medicine ([ABIM](#)) Foundation, currently comprises evidence-based recommendations from 9 specialty organizations on commonly used tests and procedures, with more recommendations planned from other societies later in the year. The goal is to use these recommendations as the basis for discussions between clinicians and patients. *Medscape* interviewed David M. Lang, MD, an officer of the American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) who helped craft its Choosing Wisely recommendations. David M. Lang, MD is a member of the Ohio Asthma Coalition and is Head of the Section of Allergy/Immunology, Respiratory Institute, Co-Director of the Asthma Center and Director of the Allergy/Immunology Fellowship Training Program at Cleveland Clinic. Source: Brody H. [Medicine's ethical responsibility for health care reform -- the top five list](#). *N Engl J Med*. 2010;362:283-285. <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp0911423>. [Medscape Interview](#) (8/2/12)

Peanut and tree nut consumption during pregnancy and allergic disease in children—should mothers decrease their intake? Longitudinal evidence from the Danish National Birth Cohort

The relation between maternal peanut intake during pregnancy and allergic disease development in children has been controversial. We used data from the Danish National Birth Cohort to examine associations between maternal peanut and tree nut intake during pregnancy and allergic outcomes in children at 18 months and 7 years of age. We estimated maternal peanut and tree nut intake (n = 61,908) using a validated midpregnancy food frequency questionnaire. At 18 months, we used parental report of childhood asthma diagnosis, wheeze symptoms, and recurrent wheeze (>3 episodes). Higher tree nut intake was inversely associated with a medication-related asthma diagnosis (OR, 0.81; 95% CI, 0.73-0.90) and self-reported allergic rhinitis (OR, 0.80; 95% CI, 0.64-1.01). Conclusions: Our results do not suggest that women should decrease peanut and tree nut intake during pregnancy; instead, consumption of peanuts and tree nuts during pregnancy might even decrease the risk of allergic disease development in children. Source: © 2012 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. ([Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology](#))

Whooping Cough Cases Jump Eleven Percent in the United States

With the weekly release of the MMWR report, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) figures on the number of whooping cough, or pertussis, cases continue to climb. With the addition of the unreported Minnesota cases, and other state corrections, the United States now has seen over 21,000 cases of whooping cough in 2012. During the week that ended July 21, the latest data shows a 10.8 percent increase in pertussis cases from the prior week. Source: *MMWR report, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)* [Week 29](#). [Examiner](#), Charles Simmins, 07/28/2012

Asthmapolis: Public Health Data in Action

Hundreds of people in Louisville, Ky., who regularly use an asthma inhaler will soon be doing much more than just helping themselves whenever they take a puff. Through a demonstration project created by Asthmapolis, an innovative technology firm based in Madison, Wisc., data collected by a sensor in the inhalers of the project participants will help Asthmapolis and city leaders in Louisville better understand when and where people with asthma develop symptoms. [NewPublicHealth](#), a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Blog(08/02/2012)

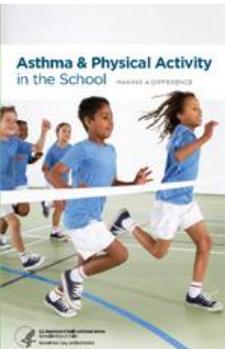
Combination Nasal Steroid–Antihistamine Is More Effective Than Either Agent Alone

For patients with moderate-to-severe SAR that is uncontrolled on nasal steroids alone, the treatment of choice should be a combination intranasal steroid and intranasal antihistamine. For patients with severe symptoms, the combination could be started as first-line therapy, but azelastine has a bitter taste, and two different sprays increase treatment cost and complexity. (A combination product is not yet available commercially.) We don't know if the combination is superior to intranasal steroids alone when used for longer than 2 weeks, but it is worth a try in patients with uncontrolled chronic symptoms. Source: Journal Watch © 2012 Massachusetts Medical Society. [Medscape \(8/20/12\)](#)

Mepolizumab Controls Eosinophilic Asthma Flare-ups

Patients with severe refractory eosinophilic asthma saw the frequency of asthma-related complications, including severe exacerbations, visits to the emergency department, and hospitalizations, cut nearly in half after treatment with mepolizumab. Results of a study, which will be presented September 2 at the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Annual Congress in Vienna, Austria, suggest that mepolizumab also reduces the need for steroid use in patients with eosinophilic asthma. Source: *European Respiratory Society (ERS) 2012 Annual Meeting*. To be presented September 2, 2012. [Medscape \(8/17/12\)](#)

New Resource for School Staff on Asthma and Physical Activity



Students aren't the only ones who can get good grades this school year. How about an A+ for classroom teachers, physical education teachers, coaches, athletic trainers, and other school staff who follow recommendations from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) to help students control their asthma?

That goal is within reach thanks to [Asthma & Physical Activity in the School](#), a new resource from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, which coordinates the NAEPP.

This newly updated booklet provides a game plan for school staff to partner with parents and health care providers to empower students to take control of their asthma and be active in sports and physical activities. It also outlines practical ways to keep students with asthma safe this school year.

Why focus on asthma and physical activity in school? Because as many as 1 in 10 children has asthma. Poorly controlled asthma can lead to troublesome symptoms, school absences, and life-threatening health emergencies. And for students whose asthma is not well-controlled, exercise and other physical activity can bring on asthma symptoms and attacks. When asthma is well-controlled, however, students can participate fully in all activities, including play, sports, and even vigorous exercise.

[Order Asthma & Physical Activity in the School](#) today for yourself and your school. Spread the word to your fellow school administrators, school nurses, teachers, and coaches and to parents and caregivers. Your students will thank you!

And don't forget to [sign up for the quarterly NACI In the Know eNewsletter](#).

COPD

COPD Staging Needs Fine Tuning

Although the 2011 Global Strategy for the Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (GOLD) intended to provide a staging system for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),

a new study has found that patient categorization varies according to which of 2 disease scales is used. The results will be presented on September 3 by MeiLan King Han, MD, from the division of pulmonary and critical care at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, at the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Annual Congress in Vienna, Austria. The study evaluated whether the instrument used to measure symptoms affects patient placement and whether subgroups correspond to actual patient symptoms, and was [published online](#) August 18 in the *Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, a new journal that will launch early in 2013. Source: *Lancet Resp Med*. Published online August 18, 2012. [Abstract, Comment](#). [Medscape](#) (8/20/12)

COPD Essentials for Health Professionals

Health professionals have an important role to play in the diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which is now the third leading cause of death in the United States. This bookmark-sized reference tool provides health professionals with clear information on risk factors, symptoms, how to differentiate between COPD and asthma, and more. Early detection and effective treatment of COPD depend on accurate diagnosis. The bookmark is available online, as a PDF, or as a laminated bookmark.

[View the COPD Essentials bookmark.](#)



Glycopyrronium Bromide Powder Inhaler Helpful in COPD

For patients with moderate to severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in the phase III GLOW2 trial, the antimuscarinic glycopyrronium bromide (NVA237) did significantly better than placebo and at least as well as tiotropium bromide (Spiriva). With its rapid efficacy (within five minutes on day one), good safety profile, and excellent 0-24 hour forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1) performance similar or superior to tiotropium, NVA237 50 mcg looks to be beneficial for patients with COPD, and may help reduce moderate and severe exacerbations," lead investigator Dr. Edward M. Kerwin told Reuters Health by email. Source: *Eur Respir J* 2012, <http://bit.ly/OXA2IN>. [Medscape](#) (Reuters Health) (8/10/12).

Current Best Practice in Pulmonary Rehabilitation for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Abstract: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic condition that negatively affects several patient-centered outcomes. Among these, exercise capacity, dyspnea, and quality of life are the most relevant. In this article, factors contributing to exercise limitation increase in exercise-induced dyspnea, quality of life deterioration, and other pathophysiological aspects in patients with COPD are analyzed in detail. Pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) is an evidence-based, multidisciplinary, and comprehensive intervention for patients with chronic respiratory diseases who are symptomatic and often have decreased daily life activities. PR has been clearly shown to induce favorable and long-lasting effects on all patient-centered outcomes. In addition, PR appears to have positive (even if not conclusively demonstrated) effects on other important outcomes in patients with COPD: number and severity of exacerbations, healthcare resource utilization, and survival. The organization of PR treatment, its components, outcome assessment, and future directions are discussed in light of the most robust scientific evidence. Source: *Ther Adv Resp Dis*. 2012;6(4):221-237. © 2012 Sage Publications, Inc. [Medscape](#) (8/15/12)

DISPARITIES

Minority Children Affected by Disparities in Asthma Health Care

By J. Nadine Gracia, MD, MSCE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health (Acting)

Asthma affects nearly 26 million Americans, including 7 million children. While advancements in treatment and interventions have improved health outcomes for many suffering from this respiratory disease, that progress has not yet reached everyone. Poor and minority children bear the greatest burden of the disease, suffering from asthma at higher rates, experiencing greater exposure to environmental triggers and receiving less access to quality

care.

On Thursday, May 31, 2012, the Obama administration launched a new approach to closing that gap: the Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities. [Read More](#).

More Resources:

- [Obama administration working to close racial, ethnic gap on asthma](#)
- [President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children \[PDF | 287KB\]](#)
- [The My Air, My Health HHS/EPA Challenge](#)
- [Prevent Allergy and Asthma Attacks at Home: Quick Guide to Healthy Living](#)

INFLUENZA

Cases of Novel Swine Influenza Surging

The number of individuals sickened by a novel swine influenza virus since July 2011 has surged to 29, with 12 new cases reported this week, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced today. Direct or indirect contact with pigs explains how most of the 29 individuals, predominantly children, caught the virus. However, the CDC has identified a few cases of human-to-human transmission, and the agency is closely monitoring the virus to see whether it mutates into a version more easily spread among humans. A study published online in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in February reported that the virus has "pandemic potential" among humans. [Medscape](#) (8/3/12)

Vaccination of Healthcare Workers to Protect Patients at Increased Risk of Acute Respiratory Disease CME

Health care workers (HCWs) may transmit respiratory infection to patients. We assessed evidence for the effectiveness of vaccinating HCWs to provide indirect protection for patients at risk for severe or complicated disease after acute respiratory infection. We searched electronic health care databases and sources of gray literature by using a predefined strategy. Risk for bias was assessed by using validated tools, and results were synthesized by using a narrative approach. Seventeen of the 12,352 identified citations met the full inclusion criteria, and 3 additional articles were identified from reference or citation tracking. All considered influenza vaccination of HCWs, and most were conducted in long-term residential care settings. Consistency in the direction of effect was observed across several different outcome measures, suggesting a likely protective effect for patients in residential care settings. However, evidence was insufficient for us to confidently extrapolate this to other at-risk patient groups. Source: *Emerging Infectious Diseases* CME. 2012;18(8):1225-1234. © 2012 (Medscape) 7/20/12

Pertussis Is Rising! Why Aren't You Vaccinating Adults?

Medicine Matters, a publication of Medscape Internal Medicine, features Dr. Susan Fryhofer, MD, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia; Past President, American College of Physicians. This brief discussion features information about the new outbreaks of pertussis and how vaccinating everyone with Tdap could be prevention for those most likely to die from the disease, infants younger than 3 months. [Medscape](#) (8/22/12)

CLINICAL ISSUES

PCORI Seeks Comments on Methodology and Patient-Outcomes

On July 23, PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute) released its draft Methodological Standards with translation guides and asked for public review and comments. The draft report is [here](#).

Organization launches case-management accreditation program

The National Committee for Quality Assurance's new case-management accreditation initiative focuses on care

coordination, patient-centered approaches and outcomes. "Not only does [case-management accreditation] add value to existing quality improvement efforts, it also demonstrates an organization's commitment to the highest degree of improving the quality of their patients' care," said NCQA President Margaret O'Kane. [Modern Physician](#) (free registration) (7/30)

Many providers prefer paper for patient education, study shows

Nurse practitioners, certified diabetes educators, registered dietitians, social workers and other health care providers who educate patients on diagnoses and prescription adherence say they prefer educational materials in paper form, according to communications agency HealthEd Group. These "health care extenders" said paper documents are easier to assemble into customized packages, and many patients have difficulty understanding online information and identifying reliable sources. [Medical Marketing & Media](#) (7/30)

Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science:

Public Reporting as a Quality Improvement Strategy

July 2012

In 2004, AHRQ launched a collection of evidence reports, *Closing the Quality Gap: A Critical Analysis of Quality Improvement Strategies*, to bring data to bear on quality improvement opportunities. These reports summarized the evidence on quality improvement strategies related to chronic conditions, practice areas, and cross-cutting priorities. This evidence report is part of a new series, *Closing the Quality Gap: Revisiting the State of the Science*. This report evaluates the effectiveness of public reporting of health care quality information as a quality improvement strategy.

[View or download Report](#)

NCQA launches case-management accreditation program

The National Committee for Quality Assurance's new case-management accreditation initiative focuses on care coordination, patient-centered approaches and outcomes. "Not only does [case-management accreditation] add value to existing quality improvement efforts, it also demonstrates an organization's commitment to the highest degree of improving the quality of their patients' care," said NCQA President Margaret O'Kane. [Modern Physician](#) (free registration) (07/30) *Free Registration for [Modern Healthcare/Modern Physician](#)*

Organization endorses 12 patient-centered quality measures

The National Quality Forum has included seven of the American Medical Association's "Communication Climate Assessment Toolkit" quality measures among the 12 it endorsed to help promote effective patient-centered care and communication. The organization said hospitals and large practice groups may use the measures in assessing communication performance. [Healthcare Informatics online](#) (8/13)

Safety net providers show better care coordination

A study in *Health Affairs* documented communitywide care coordination among safety net providers in half of 12 U.S. communities assessed in 2010, an increase from only two a decade earlier. Researchers also found one-third of the communities had developed referral networks in 2010, compared with none 10 years earlier. [Modern Physician](#) (free registration) (8/7)

MEDICATIONS

'Son of Advair' Lung Drug Submitted for Approval

GlaxoSmithKline and its partner Theravance have submitted their new once-daily combination lung drug - to be known as Breo and Relvar - for regulatory approval in the United States and Europe. In Europe, where the medicine will be sold under the brand name Relvar, the application is for use in treating both asthma and chronic

obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the drug's makers said on Friday. The U.S. filing for Breo is for COPD only, while the two partners review the strategy for asthma in the U.S. The new drug, a combination of fluticasone furoate and vilanterol, has had mixed results in clinical trials, showing superiority to Advair (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol) in some tests but not others. ([Reuter's Health Information](#)) 7/13/12.

FDA Approves Generic Singulair

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today approved the first generic versions of the asthma and allergy drug montelukast sodium (*Singulair*, Merck), which will be marketed by 10 different pharmaceutical companies. [Medscape](#) (8/3/12) [FDA Announcement](#) (8/3/12)

2 firms debut generics of Sunovion's bronchospasm drug Xopenex

Sunovion Pharmaceuticals authorized Prasco Laboratories and Watson Pharmaceuticals to sell generic versions of respiratory treatment Xopenex, or levalbuterol hydrochloride. The drug is indicated for bronchospasm in patients age 6 and older with reversible obstructive airway disease. [Drug Store News](#) (8/20) [Drug Store News](#) (8/20)

FDA OKs Watson's generic of AstraZeneca's Pulmicort Respules

The FDA approved Watson Pharmaceuticals' budesonide inhalation suspension to treat asthma symptoms in 1- to 8-year-olds. The treatment is a generic version of AstraZeneca's Pulmicort Respules. [Drug Store News](#) (8/1)

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Interested in forming strategic community partnerships to achieve optimal asthma management in schools?

Then join us for the Green Strides [Strategic Collaboration for Effective Asthma Management in Schools](#) webinar on **Wednesday, September 12, 2012, from 2 – 3 p.m. EDT**. Hear from leading asthma experts as they discuss best practices for asthma management in schools and how they formed successful collaborations with key partners to expand the reach of their comprehensive school-based asthma management programs.

Attend this webinar to:

- Discover strategies for identifying and collaborating with a diverse set of community partners to improve asthma management in schools.
- Hear unique perspectives and tactics for increasing community awareness about asthma's impact on students and how to effectively control it.
- Learn how controlling asthma in schools can lead to improved academic performance.
- Understand the connection between effective asthma management in schools and green and healthy learning environments.
- Gain answers to your questions about comprehensive school-based asthma management programs from leading asthma experts.

Speakers:

- Teresa Lampmann, Coordinating Manager, The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey
- Marilyn Hammett, Coordinator of Health Services, Louisiana Recovery School District
- Kitty Hernlen, Assistant Professor, Georgia Health Sciences University

Facilitator:

- Tracy Washington Enger, Indoor Environments Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

[Register Today](#)

Contact Us:

Do you have questions?

Email EPAsthmaProgram@cadmusgroup.com.

IMPROVING CHILDREN'S HEALTH THROUGH FEDERAL COLLABORATION WEBINAR SERIES

Children's Environmental Health Research Presented the second Tuesday of the month

Click on the link below for recordings of previous sessions and to Register

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/humanhealth/children/webinars.html>

The EPA and NIEHS Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers Program ("Children's Centers") was established in 1998 to explore ways to reduce children's health risks from environmental factors. The long-range goals of the program include understanding how environmental factors affect children's health and promoting translation of basic research findings into intervention and prevention methods to prevent adverse health outcomes. This session will share current research and discuss how the Children's Centers foster research collaborations among basic, clinical, and behavioral scientists with engagement and participation from local communities.

Below is the agenda from the August 9 Webinar:

Agenda

4:00 PM to 4:05 PM – Welcome and Introductions

Alicia Aalto, Children's Environmental Health Coordinator, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
Cherri Pruitt, Maternal and Child Health Regional Consultant, US Health Resources and Services Administration, Region VIII

4:05 PM to 4:20 PM – The EPA and NIEHS Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers Program: Protecting Children's Health for a Lifetime

Kimberly Ann Gray, Ph.D., Susceptibility and Population Health Branch, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health

Richard Callan, M.P.H., National Center for Environmental Research, US Environmental Protection Agency

The Children's Centers were established to understand environmental factors affecting children's health and to promote translation of research findings into intervention and prevention methods. Research areas include: health effects of early life exposures to air pollutants, water contaminants, pesticides and social stressors, environmental contributions to adverse birth outcomes and health impacts on human growth and development, including adverse health outcomes such as autism, asthma, obesity, and childhood cancers.

4:20 PM to 4:50 PM - Overview of the Denver Childhood Environmental Health Center and the Science of Epigenetics

David A. Schwartz, M.D., National Jewish Health, CEH Research Center, Director

The Denver Childhood Environmental Health Center is looking into possible causes of asthma and other respiratory diseases, which are the most common chronic childhood illnesses. Dr. Schwartz will discuss the importance of epigenetics in childhood asthma. The scientific background regarding genetics and its relevance to advancing science and applications to clinical care will also be discussed.

4:40 PM to 5:00 PM – Environmental control measures to improve asthma management: Practical tips

Andrew Liu, MD, National Jewish Health, CEH Research Center

Endotoxins are molecules contained in the membrane surrounding the cell wall of certain types of bacteria and become airborne when the bacteria die. Ambient endotoxin is known to affect the immune system but it is not clear whether it can cause asthma or can make it worse. Dr. Liu will discuss practical tips for improving asthma management through environmental control measures and how research will help to determine the levels of endotoxin exposure that are likely to be problematic for children, and to develop environmental educational and intervention programs to improve outcomes.

5:00 PM to 5:20 PM - The Importance of Community Engagement in the Work of the Denver CEHC

Stanley J. Szeffler, MD, National Jewish Health, CEH Research Center

A Community Outreach Translation Core (COTC) is part of the Denver CEHC and is responsible for communicating the scientific accomplishments of the center as well as providing an opportunity for the community to influence the work of the research team. A major feature of the success of the Denver COTC is an enthusiastic Community Advisory Board that speaks for the community and drives the interaction between scientific discovery and community application of this information. Dr. Szeffler's lecture will describe how the COTC works to enhance community engagement.

5:20 PM to 5:30 PM – Answers to questions posted by Webinar attendees *Facilitator: Cherri Pruitt*

Speakers Bios:

Richard Callan, M.P.H.

Rich Callan has worked in the field of children's environmental health at the U.S. EPA since 2004, first as an ASPH-EPA Fellow and currently as an Environmental Health Scientist and Project Officer at EPA's National Center for Environmental Research. He and his colleague Nica Louie jointly administer the EPA/NIEHS Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers Program ("Children's Centers") for EPA in collaboration with NIEHS. The program was established in 1998 to explore ways to reduce children's health risks and the long-range goals include understanding how environmental factors affect children's health and promoting translation of basic research findings into interventions and methods to prevent adverse health outcomes. The program is designed to foster research collaborations among basic, clinical, and behavioral scientists with active engagement from local communities. As a Project Officer, Rich's responsibilities include administering grants and communicating findings to stakeholders, the academic research community and the public, identifying and recommending research priorities, preparing briefings, writing RFAs in collaboration with EPA and NIEHS colleagues and making funding recommendations. Rich has an MPH in Environmental Health Sciences from Yale and is honored to be working with so many terrific colleagues at EPA and NIEHS.

Kimberly Gray, Ph.D.

Dr. Gray received both her B.S. degree in behavioral neuroscience and a Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the NIEHS Epidemiology Branch. During this training period, she examined the long-term effects of polychlorinated biphenyl exposure during pregnancy and childhood development using the specimens and data collected from the Collaborative Perinatal Project. In August 2001, she returned to NIEHS as a scientific program administrator for the Susceptibility and Population Health Branch where she directs the NIEHS and EPA Centers for Children's Environmental Health & Disease Prevention Research, and the larger environmental pediatric epidemiology portfolio supported by NIEHS. She also serves as the NIEHS senior advisor for certificates of confidentiality, is a member of the NIEHS protocol advisory board, and is the NIEHS liaison of the Interagency Coordinating Committee to the National Children's Study.

Andrew H. Liu, MD

Dr. Andy Liu is an Associate Professor of Pediatric Allergy & Clinical Immunology at National Jewish Health and the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine. He researches the role of the environment in childhood asthma and respiratory health, with research funding from the NIH and EPA. He has Pediatric Asthma & Allergy clinics at National Jewish Health, Denver Health, and The Children's Hospital in Denver. Andy is the Principal Investigator for the National Jewish Health site of the NIH NIAID-sponsored Inner City Asthma Consortium. He is a Project Leader for National Jewish Health's NIH NIEHS and EPA STAR program-sponsored Children's Environmental Health Center. His recent publications include chapters on childhood asthma in Nelson's Textbook of Pediatrics, Pediatric Respiratory Medicine, and Pediatric Allergy: Principles and Practice, and on innate immunity in Middleton's Allergy.

Stanley J. Szeffler, MD

Dr. Szeffler is the Helen Wohlberg and Herman Lambert Chair in Pharmacokinetics, Head of Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology, and Director of the Weinberg Clinical Research Unit/Pediatrics Section at National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado. He is Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine. He is also a member of the Expert Panel for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's National Asthma Education and Prevention Program on "Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma." Dr. Szeffler is the Co-Director and Pediatric Health Specialist for the NIEHS/EPA Childhood Environmental Health Center Grant at National Jewish Health. He is the Principal Investigator for the NHLBI AsthmaNet-Pediatrics Section and Co-Principal Investigator for the NIAID Inner-City Asthma Consortium (ICAC) II. His major contributions are directed

toward the appropriate use of long-term control therapy in childhood asthma. He directs a school-based asthma program for the Denver Public School system funded by the Colorado Cancer, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary disease Program and the Caring for Colorado Foundation.

Also in this series!

Don't forget to register for the Strategic Collaboration for Effective Asthma Management in Schools Webinar!

Join U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Education and leading asthma experts for the Green Strides [Strategic Collaboration for Effective Asthma Management in Schools](#) webinar on

Wednesday, September 12, 2012, from 2 – 3 p.m. EDT.

At this webinar, learn how to:

- Collaborate with key partners to improve asthma management in your schools.
- Effectively control asthma's impact on students and improve academic performance.
- Understand the connection between effective asthma management in schools and green and healthy learning environments.

Immediately following the webinar, join the speakers for a half-hour online Q&A session from 3-3:30 p.m. EDT in the AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org [Discussion Forum!](#)

Speakers:

- Teresa Lampmann, Coordinating Manager, The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey
- Marilyn Hammett, Coordinator of Health Services, Louisiana Recovery School District
- Kitty Hernlen, Assistant Professor, Georgia Health Sciences University

Facilitator:

- Tracy Washington Enger, Indoor Environments Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Register Today

For more information about the Webinars contact:

Alicia Aalto

Children's Environmental Health Coordinator

US EPA Region 8 (8P-SA)

1595 Wynkoop St.

Denver, CO 80202-1129

Phone: (303)312-6967

Fax: (303)312-6341

e-mail: aalto.alicia@epa.gov

July 10, 2012 [CDC Asthma Webinar](#)

These three PowerPoint presentations can be obtained by Emailing Barbara.Hickcox@odh.ohio.gov

Presenter: Teresa Lampmann, PACNJ Coordinating Manager, New Jersey

Presentation Title: The PACNJ Asthma Treatment Plan

Teresa Lampmann, Pediatric and Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey have worked for the American Lung Association in New Jersey since 1988. She has served as the Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey (PACNJ) Coordinating Manager since it began in 2000. In 2004 the PACNJ was invited to participate in the 1st Summit for "**Crossing the Quality Chasm**" sponsored by The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and was featured in their publication as "*an example of how a coalition can quickly be solidified and take action if it joins forces around a common objective*" (p.80). In 2005 the PACNJ received the "**Making a Difference**" Award from the Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics. In 2007 PACNJ received the United States Environmental Protection Agency Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools "**Special Achievement Award**" in recognition of outstanding commitment to a healthy school environment. In 2009 PACNJ received the American Lung

Association **Bernard Gregory Award for Cultural Diversity** for their work addressing the disparities in the burden of asthma.

Presenter: Susan Ross, Senior RN Clinical Advisor, Minnesota Department of Health Asthma Program

Presentation Title: interactive Asthma Action Plan (iAAP)

Susan Ross is the Senior RN Clinical Advisor for the Minnesota Department of Health Asthma Program and a Certified Asthma Educator (AE-C). Susan has worked with the MDH Asthma Program since 2002 developing programs, clinical tools and educational programs for clinicians, health professionals, school personnel and the general public.

She is the developer, project manager, writer, editor and primary trainer for a number of the MDH asthma programs projects including: the MDH interactive Asthma Action Plan (iAAP), The Coach's Asthma Clipboard Program at WinningwithAsthma.org, and the MN school asthma training and manual, "Managing Asthma in Minnesota Schools – A Comprehensive Resource & Training Manual for School Personnel. She is also working with Minnesota's American Indian tribal communities to build a tribal asthma resource network and promote the adoption of the successful in home environmental assessment and self-management education program, the MDH Tribal RETA program.

Ms. Ross has presented numerous times at national, state and local conferences including for the CDC, EPA and the American College of Preventive Medicine. She was a panel member and contributing author for the NAEPP Guideline Implementation Panel (GIP) Report writing the GIP supplemental document, "Establishing a framework of patient-centered care for developing the GIP Implementation Plan", and a Panel member of the MERCK Childhood Asthma Policy Roundtable & Workshop.

Susan's public health goal is to move all clinicians toward utilizing the NAEPP, EPR-3 National Asthma Guidelines when caring for their patients who have asthma.

Presenter: Dan Burrows, MS, HAS, Team Lead

Asthma Program Team

Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Presentation Title: Introduction of today's webinar and presenters

June 2012 CDC Asthma Webinar

To obtain this PowerPoint presentation email Barbara.Hickcox@odh.ohio.gov

From: Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Presenter: David Van Sickle, PhD

Presentation Title: Citizen Participation and Public-Private Partnerships in Asthma Surveillance

David Van Sickle, PhD, is the co-founder and CEO of Asthmapolis, a Madison, WI based company that is pioneering effective new disease management solutions for asthma and chronic respiratory disease. Previously, Van Sickle was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholar at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. From 2004-2006, he was an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, where he was assigned to the Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch. Van Sickle received his PhD in medical anthropology from the University of Arizona in 2004. His dissertation research, funded by the National Science Foundation, examined the rising prevalence of asthma and allergy in India, a topic he previously studied among Native Americans in Alaska, Arizona and New Mexico. In 2011, he was named a Champion of Change by the White House for his work on innovation.



Ohio Department of Health Asthma Program

This newsletter was supported by Grant/Cooperative Agreement Number EH09-901- 1U59EH000511-01 from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.