



Asthma News and Notes

Week of February 22, 2010

Please take note and spread the word that there are three important Ohio Asthma Coalition events coming.

- **This Wednesday!** The OAC Webinar on Exercise Induced Bronchospasm with Dr. Jonathan Parsons from OSU on Wednesday – everything you wanted to know about EIA, EIB and VCD diagnosis and management.
- **Next week on Friday!** The annual OAC meeting at the American Lung Association in Columbus.
- **In October!** The next Ohio Asthma Education and Research Conference at the OSU Fawcett Center in Columbus.

In Anything Asthma:

- Save the date for the state Healthy Homes Conference 6/3/2010. (See attachment)
- Award Winning Asthma Programs – nominate your program. (See Attachment)
- Freedom from Smoking starts February 27. (See Attachment)
- ODH Black History Month event, February 23.
- A new FDA message on long acting beta agonists (LABA's).
- A study on how soon parents noticed asthma symptoms in their children before using albuterol.
- Medicaid enrollment surges.

H1N1 Vaccinations and Asthma:

- H1N1 vaccinations rates do not show the whole picture.
- CDC says H1N1 rates total 57 million in US

Health Reform Issues:

- N.H. program launched to lower health care prices and improve health care customer choices.
- National Academies Press announce two publications
 - **Redesigning Continuing Education in the Health Professions**
 - **Policy Issues in the Development of Personalized Medicine in Oncology: Workshop Summary**
- Legislators invited to Feb. 25 summit
- Sebelius to reveal health care reform plan on Monday.
- HHS advisory committee for Healthy People 2020
- Chronic disease is top reason for Medicare spending
- Flexible work schedules benefit employee health
- Health care reform and comparative effectiveness
- Columbus Public Health Announces: Erasing the mortality gap in infant mortality through individual, community, and systems responsibility. (See attachment)

Clinical Improvement Advances:

- Retail health care clinics expected to grow

- Questions raised about long-term hospitals
 - Survey shows more Dr's using EMR's
 - Survey: IT isn't helping with physicians communications issues.
 - New nurses find competition is tough for jobs.
 - Evidence-based cancer care reduces costs.
 - Survey: Solo physicians closing practices.
 - Smartphone medical apps gain acceptance.
 - Survey: Language and cultural barriers hurt patient care, say physicians.
 - Discharge mishaps send seniors back to hospital.
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Ohio Asthma Coalition News – Sign up Now!

OAC Webinar Wednesday, February 24 – 12:30 to 1:30pm. Dr. Jonathan Parsons to present: Exercise Induced Bronchospasm.

The Ohio Asthma Coalition supported by the Ohio Department of Health Asthma Program will present Exercise Induced Bronchospasm this coming Wednesday. Space is still available to sign up for the Web conference. In order to register go to <https://oh.train.org/>, register on the site free, and go Course 1020735. Click on the course to register. Nursing continuing education credits for 1.0 contact hours are available.

The Ohio Department of Health (OH-011-0412) is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Ohio Nurses Association (OBN-001-91), an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

March Annual Coalition Meeting is coming up a week from Friday! Sign up Now!

The annual meeting of the Ohio Asthma Coalition is only two work weeks away! Sign up on the American Lung Association of Ohio Website. The meeting is free although lunch will be ordered from Panera and each person will be responsible for their own. Participants may bring their lunches also. Go to www.ohiolung.org to register NOW! You'll see the meeting is listed first under **Ohio Highlights**.

Save October 8, 2010 for the Ohio Asthma Education and Research Conference 2010: Uncovering new trends in asthma interventions!

The October 8, 2010, Ohio Asthma Education and Research conference is taking shape. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mike McGeehin of the Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Division of CDC, discussing Climate Change and Health. There will be at least four tracks for participants to follow although participants can switch between tracks as necessary.

The tracks are:

- The Environment and Asthma
- Technical Aspects of Asthma Care
- Asthma Education
- Clinical Management of Asthma
- (A fifth track on Community Asthma Interventions is being considered.)

Location: The Ohio State University Fawcett Center

Times: 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Registration will be available soon through the American Lung Association Web site.

An application will be submitted to the Ohio Nurses Association for nursing contact hours.

Anything Asthma:

FDA Drug Safety Communication: New safety requirements for long-acting inhaled asthma medications called Long-Acting Beta-Agonists (LABAs)

Safety Announcement: [02-18-2010] Due to safety concerns, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is requiring changes to how long-acting inhaled medications called Long-Acting Beta-Agonists (LABAs) are used in the treatment of asthma. ([Click Here](#) for the entire announcement)

Parents see asthma symptoms in children before seeking help

More than 60% of parents said they noticed physical symptoms of an asthma attack or behavioral changes in their children before seeking treatment. The results led to a follow-up study in which asthma coaches work with physicians to promote earlier use of albuterol and self-management treatments. [United Press International](#) (2/17)

Medicaid Sign-Ups Surge Nationwide, Analysis Finds

Washington Post, Amy Goldstein, 02/19/2010

The recession has fueled the greatest influx of Americans onto Medicaid since the earliest days of the public insurance program for the poor, according to new findings that show caseloads

H1N1, Vaccinations and Asthma:

H1N1 Vaccination Rates Don't Show Full Picture

The Columbus Dispatch, Misti Crane, 02/10/2010

Despite a requirement that vaccine providers report data within 24 hours, many are lagging significantly behind, meaning the state has an inaccurate, low count of who has been vaccinated for H1N1.

CDC says H1N1 flu cases total 57 million in U.S.

The CDC said about 57 million Americans have had the H1N1 flu since the outbreak began last April and nearly 12,000 have died from it. Researchers said the death rate is lower than for a normal flu season but much higher for patients younger than 65. [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/13)

Health Reform Issues:

City of Manchester, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in New Hampshire Launch Program Aimed at Helping to Lower Health Care Costs and Creating Smarter Shoppers

Employees of the state's largest city can now earn rewards for choosing more cost-effective health care providers, thanks to an innovative pilot program announced today by the City of Manchester and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in New Hampshire.

New from National Academies Press on continuing education for health professionals and policy issues in personalized medicine.



Redesigning Continuing Education in the Health Professions

Today in the United States, the professional health workforce is not consistently prepared to provide high quality health care and assure patient safety, even as the nation spends more per capita on health care than any other country...

DETAILS



Policy Issues in the Development of Personalized Medicine in Oncology: Workshop Summary

One of the challenges in treating cancer is the disease's complexity and variation among patients. Cancer manifests differently in each patient, so treatments that are effective in one patient may not be effective in another. As cancer care becomes more...

DETAILS

Legislators are officially invited to the Feb. 25 health summit

The White House asked congressional leaders and ranking members from relevant committees from both parties, as well as selected lawmakers of the committees' choosing, to attend the health care summit on Feb. 25. The televised meeting, which will involve nearly 40 legislators, will center on cost containment, the effect of reform on the budget deficit, and insurance issues including coverage and expansion. The administration also said it will publish its version of the legislation prior to the conference. [The Wall Street Journal](#) (2/12) , [The Washington Post](#) (2/13)

Sebelius: Democratic health care proposal to be unveiled Monday

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on Thursday said that it is important that a workable health care reform plan be reached and that she expects a Democratic health plan to be launched before the health care summit on Feb. 25. A single health proposal from the White House, which will include plans to reconcile differences in the House and Senate versions of the health reform bill, is expected to be posted online Monday, Sebelius said. [The Huffington Post](#) (2/18) , [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/18)

Obama to Offer Health Bill to Ease Impasse as Bipartisan Meeting Approaches

New York Times, David M. Herszenhorn and Robert Pear, 02/19/2010

President Obama will put forward comprehensive health care legislation intended to bridge differences between Senate and House Democrats ahead of a summit meeting with Republicans next week, senior administration officials and Congressional aides said Thursday.

Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020

Announcement of the April 1, 2010 Meeting

The Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020 will hold a meeting on the Internet on April 1, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The meeting will be open to the public.

Members of the public are invited to listen to the online Committee meeting. To attend the online meeting, individuals must pre-register to attend at the Healthy People Web site at www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/advisory/default.asp. There will be no opportunity for oral public comments during the meeting. Participation in the meeting is limited. Registrations will be accepted until maximum capacity is reached. Registration for the online meeting must be

completed by 9:00 a.m. ET on April 1, 2010. A waiting list will be maintained should registrations exceed meeting capacity. Individuals on the waiting list will be contacted as additional space for the meeting becomes available. For detailed instructions about how to make sure that your Windows-based computer and browser are set up for the online meeting using WebEx software, please visit the Healthy People Web site at www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/advisory/default.asp.

Registration questions may be directed to Hilary Scherer at HP2020@norc.org (e-mail), (301) 634-9374 (phone), or (301) 634-9301 (fax).

Chronic disease is top reason for Medicare spending growth

Outpatient treatment for chronic disease is driving increases in Medicare spending, according to a report in Health Affairs. Heart disease costs were the major reason for growth from 1987 to 1997; but from 1997 to 2006, chronic conditions, especially diabetes, began to account for a larger share of the increase. [Healthcare Finance News](#) (2/18)

Flexible work schedules benefit employee health

Employees who have flexible work schedules and more autonomy may have improved health, including lower blood pressure and less stress, researchers said. A review of workplace studies showed company actions motivated by business needs, such as reducing employee hours, either had no effect or made employee health worse. [Center for the Advancement of Health/Health Behavior News Service](#) (2/16)

Health Care Reform and Comparative Effectiveness

Archives of Surgery, David R. Urbach and Arden M. Morris, 02/15/2010

The current interest in comparative effectiveness research, highlighted by the US Congress 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the broader national debate about health care reform in the United States, is a welcome development for those with a long-standing interest in research on the effectiveness of health care interventions.

Clinical Improvement Advances

Retail health clinics are expected to grow

PricewaterhouseCoopers predicts retail health care clinics and other alternative care models will become more popular in the year ahead. The company report also predicts that big pharmaceutical companies will become full partners with health care delivery teams and that technology and telecommunications will become leading health care players. [Drug Store News](#) (2/11)

Questions are raised about long-term care hospitals

The growth of long-term acute care hospitals in the U.S. is troubling some who say the businesses are not well regulated and offer patients inadequate care. An analysis of Medicare records found the hospitals were cited for serious violations of rules at twice the rate of ordinary facilities, with patients suffering more often from bedsores and infections. [The New York Times](#) (2/10)

Survey finds more doctors are using EMRs

Out of 1,000 respondents in a recent survey, more than 48% said their doctors used electronic medical records during their last visit and more than 45% said their physicians converted to EMRs in the past two years. The results show that the stimulus law is having a positive impact on EMR adoption, according to Ryan Howard, CEO of Practice Fusion, which commissioned the survey. [InformationWeek](#) (2/11)

Survey: IT isn't helping physicians overcome communication problems

A survey from the Center for Studying Health System Change found 48.6% of all physicians in 2008 said they experienced communications problems tied to language or cultural barriers. Among those physicians who said their practices are equipped with technology to determine their patients' preferred language, only about 7% regularly used such technology to address communication problems, the study found. [Modern Healthcare](#) (free registration) (2/11)

New nurses find tough competition for fewer jobs

Nursing school graduates are finding it more difficult to land a job because the economy has sent retired nurses back into the workforce and caused part-time workers to increase their hours. Hospitals also are cutting back on staff and hiring more experienced nurses, rather than new graduates. "All those factors led to a temporary Band-Aid for the nursing shortage," one expert said. [The Tennessean \(Nashville\)/McClatchy Newspapers](#) (2/14)

Study finds evidence-based cancer care reduces costs 35%

Study data showed that following evidence-based care was effective for treating patients with non-small cell lung cancer and reduced average costs by 35% over one year. "This is a great example of cancer care that can save patients, and the nation's health care system, millions of dollars and produce equally effective results," one researcher said. [Managed Healthcare Executive](#) (2/12)

Online survey finds solo physicians are closing practices

An online survey of almost 500 physicians found more than 26% have been forced to close or are considering closing their solo practices. Reasons included low and delayed reimbursements, issues with management companies, and a lack of business management education. [Healthcare Finance News](#) (2/18)

Smartphone medical apps gain acceptance among physicians

With more than 1,000 medical applications available on the iPhone, more doctors reportedly are beginning to use these devices to better manage and care for their patients. Peter Waegemann, vice president of development for the mHealth Initiative, said the technology is still in its infancy, but he expects more applications and devices to be available soon, which will help improve care and efficiency and lower costs. [Healthcare IT News](#) (2/18)

Language and Cultural Barriers Hurting Patient Care, Say Physicians

HealthLeaders Media, Joe Cantlupe, 02/15/2010

Nearly half of U.S. physicians say language or other cultural barriers are obstacles to providing high-quality patient care, according to a study released by the Center for Studying Health System Change. have surged in every state.

Discharge Missteps Can Send Seniors Back to Hospital

American Medical News, Beatriz Korc and Susan J. Landers, 02/15/2010

Mr. Park, 85, recently was admitted to the hospital with community-acquired pneumonia and, after five days of intravenous antibiotic therapy, he was discharged home

This newsletter is a product of the Ohio Department of Health Asthma Program. The program strives to reduce the burden of asthma by building collaborative efforts, providing asthma surveillance and by building awareness of asthma issues.

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