

Optimizing Asthma Management: Quality Improvement Project

Partners For Kids Quality Improvement (QI) Coaching Program offers a QI project to optimize asthma management for patients seen in the primary care office. In the US, nine million children have asthma, according to the National Institute of Health, making this a very common disease that primary care providers encounter in their practice. The asthma QI project focuses on identifying operational strategies to ensure that children are properly diagnosed; severity of disease assessed, and has access to appropriate medications to manage their disease and prevent exacerbations.

Primary Measures included in this project:

- Focusing on asthma management in your practice:
 - Ensure that an Asthma Control Test administered at every office visit to evaluate disease severity
 - Asthma action plans updated and given annually
 - Follow-up visits scheduled every 6 months
- Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR) for tracking medication management in patients with persistent asthmatics and identifying high-risk patients:
 - Increase the % of our patients with persistent asthma ages 2 to 18 yo who have an $AMR \geq 0.5$, which has been shown to be a measure of optimal medication management for patients with persistent asthma.^{1,2}
 - $AMR = \frac{\text{Units of controller medications}}{\text{Units of total (reliever and controller) medications}}$

Resources available to support the QI project:

- Support from PFK QI and pharmacy staff, and educational resources from NCH-affiliated pediatric specialists
- Access to PFK administrative claims data

For more information about PFK QI projects, please contact PFK QI Coaching at PFKQICoaching@NationwideChildrens.org

¹ Schatz et Al. “Asthma Quality-of-Care Markers Using Administrative Data”. CHEST (2005) 128(4): 1968-1973.

² Andrews et al. “Asthma Medication Ratio Predicts Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations in Children with Asthma”. MMRR (2013) 3(4).