

# Optimizing Asthma Management

A Quality Improvement Project  
from the Partners For Kids QI Coaching Program

## Project Overview

The Partners For Kids (PFK) Quality Improvement Coaching Program offers a QI project to optimize asthma management for patients seen in the primary care office, aligning with the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) 2020 revised asthma guidelines. Through this project, your practice can receive expert guidance from PFK QI specialists and pharmacists as well as asthma and allergy specialists affiliated with Nationwide Children's Hospital.

## Rationale

According to the American Lung Association, asthma is the most common chronic condition of childhood, affecting approximately 6 million children. Over 3 million children with asthma experienced an exacerbation of their asthma disease in 2016. In children under the age of 15, asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization and is responsible for approximately 640,000 emergency room visits each year. Asthma is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism. This project aims to take advantage of frequent contact between children with asthma and primary care providers to optimize asthma management in the primary care setting to improve health outcomes for these children.

## Project Components

The PFK QI Coaching team will work with your practice to customize the care you provide patients. Areas of focus could include:

- Administer an Asthma Control Test (ACT) at every office visit
- Provide updated Asthma Action Plans annually
- Arrange follow up visits for asthma every 6 months
- Utilize pharmacy data for patients with persistent asthma
  - Proportion of Days Covered (PDC) – a measure of medication adherence based on pharmacy fills
  - Asthma Pharmacy Profile – a measure of risk based on prescription for controller medication, reliever medication and oral steroids; asthma follow-up; asthma-related emergency department visits or hospitalizations

## Practice Benefits

- Adhere to the NHLBI 2020 asthma guidelines
- Achieve improved patient outcomes
- Eligible for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV credit
- Strengthen QI knowledge and skills to better impact other disease processes
- Customize to fit your practice

## Support Resources Available

- Expertise and guidance from Partners For Kids (PFK) quality improvement specialists
- Individualized patient and practice level support from PFK pharmacy staff
- Educational resources from Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) affiliated pediatric specialists
- Data support using your practice's electronic health record and PFK claims data

For more information about PFK QI projects, please contact PFK QI Coaching at [PFKQICoaching@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:PFKQICoaching@NationwideChildrens.org)

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