

# Optimizing Asthma Management

## A Quality Improvement Project from the Partners For Kids' Quality Improvement Coaching Program

### Project Overview

The Partners For Kids' Quality Improvement (QI) 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 Partners For Kids' quality team members, pharmacists, respiratory therapy and physicians.

### 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.

### Project Components

The Partners For Kids' 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 to help assess asthma symptoms
- Create Asthma Action Plans to outline steps a patient/caregiver should take to manage asthma symptoms
- Leverage an Asthma Dashboard within Partners For Kids' Provider Portal that summarizes pharmacy and medical claims and is designed to:
  - Identify patients that are high-risk for an asthma-related emergency department or inpatient visit
  - Examine 12-month history of acute care asthma visits (ED, IP, UC)
  - Assist with outreach to asthma patients that are overdue for an asthma office visit
  - Provide a 12-month history of medications dispensed to assess controller adherence, oral steroid events, and rescue medication fill frequency

### Practice Benefits

- Adhere to the NHLBI 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' quality improvement specialists
- Individualized patient and practice level support from Partners For Kids' pharmacy staff and asthma coordinator
- Support from quality outreach coordinators
- Educational resources from Dayton Children's Hospital (DCH) affiliated pediatric specialists
- Data support using your practice's electronic health record and Partners For Kids' claims data

**For more information, contact your Partners For Kids' representative.**

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