This is an e-mail communication related to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) “Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma, Allergy and Anaphylaxis.” It is designed to provide AAP Medical Home Chapter Champions with resources, as well as current clinical and other information. The Champion E-Correspondence is sent on a monthly basis. Feel free to share the Champion E-Correspondence with colleagues. Distribution information appears at the end of this newsletter.

Project Updates

Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma, Allergy and Anaphylaxis (MHCCPAAA)
Greetings from Elk Grove Village, Illinois! May is National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month! Please be sure to send us news of your advocacy efforts and participation in awareness efforts surrounding asthma and allergies. We would love to share the good news with other Chapter Champions.

Medical Home Highlight

Webinar: Changing Perception: How to Build Cultural Competence and Humility
May 12, 12:00pm – 1:00pm CT
All patients, families, and clinicians have unique cultural backgrounds. This webinar, facilitated by the National Center for Medical Home Implementation, will provide attendees with practical tools, strategies, and guidance on how to acknowledge culture, improve quality of care through cultural competence, and enhance the patient and family experience within a pediatric medical home.

Upcoming Events

◆ Webinar: Don’t Forget the Dads! The Important Role of Fathers in Child and Family Health, May 6, 10am PT/11am MT/12pm CT/1pm ET
◆ 7th Annual Pediatric Asthma Conference: Community Engagement as a Bridge to Improve Asthma Outcomes, May 6-7, Columbus, OH
◆ Third Annual Breathe Easy Asthma Awareness 5K Run/Walk, Jerome Alston Memorial Foundation, May 7, Virginia Beach, VA, Mt Trashmore
◆ Webinar: Making the Connection: Climate Changes Allergies and Asthma (Part 1 of 4), May 9, 10:30am PT/11:30am MT/12:30pm CT/1:30pm ET
◆ Webinar: Changing Perception: How to Build Cultural Competence and Humility, May 12, 10am PT/11am MT/12pm CT/1pm ET
◆ Allergy & Asthma Day Capitol Hill 2016 (AADCH), May 12, Washington DC
◆ Third Annual Breathe Easy Asthma Awareness 5K Run/Walk, Jerome Alston Memorial Foundation, May 14, Los Angeles, CA, Griffith Park
◆ I Love Lungs Wilmington Walk 2016: Kellogg’s Care Asthma Advocacy, May 14, Wilmington, NC, Hugh Macrae Park
◆ Webinar: ICD-10-CM, The Road So Far, May 18, 10am PT/11am MT/12pm CT/1pm ET
◆ Webinar: Coding for Chronic and Transition Care Management Services in Pediatrics (Part 1 of 2), May 26, 10am PT/11am MT/12pm CT/1pm ET
◆ Webinar: Making the Connection: Climate Changes Children’s Health (Part 2 of 4), May 26, 10:30am PT/11:30am MT/12:30pm CT/1:30pm ET
◆ Practical Pediatrics CME Course, May 27-29, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
◆ Practical Pediatrics CME Course, May 27-29, Seattle, Washington
◆ Webinar: Changing Relationships: How to Foster Effective Communication with Patients and Families, May 31, 9am PT/10am MT/11am CT/12pm ET
Reports

**Pediatric Obesity-Related Asthma: The Role of Metabolic Dysregulation**
In a recent publication in *Pediatrics* (April 2016) authors reviewed recent studies and emerging scientific evidence that suggest metabolic dysregulation may play a role in pediatric obesity-related asthma. Authors also reviewed the genetic and epigenetic factors that may underlie susceptibility to metabolic dysregulation and associated pulmonary morbidity among children. Study authors include six suggestions within the manuscript for pediatricians to consider implementing in their practice. Lastly, knowledge gaps were identified to focus future efforts on primary preventive strategies for obesity-related asthma in children.

**Pearls and Pitfalls in Diagnosing IgE-Mediated Food Allergy**
A recent review in *Current Allergy and Asthma Reports* (May 2016) discusses important aspects to consider during evaluation of a patient for suspected immunoglobulin E (IgE)-mediated food allergy. Authors highlight a proper diagnosis requires understanding of the common foods that cause IgE-mediated food allergy, resulting in reproducible, immediate onset, allergic reactions that can progress towards life-threatening anaphylaxis. Authors also stress the importance of understanding and probing key historical elements such as symptoms, timing and duration of reaction, and risk factors that may predispose to development of IgE-mediated food allergy. While diagnostic testing for food-specific IgE can greatly aid the diagnosis, false-positive test results are common and can lead to overinterpretation, misdiagnosis, and unnecessary dietary elimination.

**Socioeconomic Disparities in the Economic Impact of Childhood Food Allergy**
A recent study published in *Pediatrics* (April 2016) examined the degree of disparities in direct medical and out-of-pocket costs associated with food allergy across socioeconomic groups. Researchers analyzed data from a national survey of 1,643 caregivers of food-allergic children and found that children from low-economic backgrounds had higher overall prevalence of food allergy, but lower odds of being diagnosed by physician. These children incurred 2.5 times the hospitalization costs of higher income children. At the same time, they also incurred the lowest direct medical and out-of-pockets expenses for treating allergic reactions to food. The authors say this suggests that low-income children have less access to specialty care, allergen-free foods, and medications. They also may be at higher risk for accidental ingestion of allergy triggering foods and anaphylaxis. Study authors suggest that all grocery stores have designated aisles for affordable foods free of the most common allergens.
Cow’s Milk Allergy and Bone Mineral Density in Prepubertal Children

In a case-control study published in *Pediatrics* (April 2016) researchers sought to compare bone mineral density (BMD), vitamin D status, and dietary intakes of calcium and vitamin D between prepubertal children with persistent cow’s milk allergy (CMA) and those with non–cow’s milk food allergies (NCMA) as control subjects. Low bone mass was detected in 6% of the CMA group compared with none in the NCMA group. Children with CMA displayed significantly lower calcium intakes than control subjects. Vitamin D status was not reduced in children with CMA compared with control subjects. Fewer than one-half of children with CMA reported the use of calcium and vitamin D supplements. However, adherence was high among supplement users, with a mean compliance rate of 5.5 days per week. These prepubertal children with persistent CMA had lower lumbar spine BMD z scores than children with NCMA, likely resulting from lower calcium intake.

National Trends in Indicators of a Medical Home for Children

A recent study published in the *Maternal and Child Health Journal* (March 2016) looked at more than 289,000 children in the National Survey of Children’s Health in 2003, 2007, and 2011-2012. Researchers looked at four features of medical homes: access, comprehensiveness, continuity, and family-centered care. Indicators of access, continuity, and total medical home scores fluctuated but improved overall from 2003 to 2012 (7.1, 6.7 and 1.4 % point increases, respectively), while indicators of comprehensiveness and family-centered care measures declined (2.4 and 1.8 % point decreases, respectively). Children with the highest levels of social and demographic risk experienced larger fluctuations in these measures over time. There were improvements in the extent to which children’s primary care experiences aligned with a medical home model, though not linearly or for all component features. Children with more risk factors experienced more volatile changes, suggesting a particular need to attend to the primary care experiences of the most vulnerable children.

*Subscription log in or purchase may be required to view full article

Resources

Webinar: Groundbreaking Asthma and Allergy Articles from 2015: Implications for Care and Practice in the Medical Home

The recorded webinar, *Groundbreaking Asthma and Allergy Articles from 2015: Implications for Care and Practice in the Medical Home*, is now available. This webinar was presented by David Stukus, MD, FAAP, FAAAI, FACAII, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Allergy and Immunology, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, OH, supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma, Allergy, and Anaphylaxis. This one hour webinar was designed to educate practitioners on AAP highlighted asthma and allergy research articles from 2015, and the impact these findings may have on clinical practice.

Five (5) Simple Steps to Reduce Future Asthma Deaths and Readmissions

A recent National Review of Asthma Deaths (NRAD) in the United Kingdom found that 10% of asthma deaths happened just one month of discharge from hospital following asthma treatment. In response to this startling statistic, the British Thoracic Society and Asthma UK launched a national care check list for discharging asthma patients who have recent received treatment for an acute asthma attack. Experts believe that successful implementation of just 5 simple steps could reduce future life-threatening attacks and hospital admissions.
Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC) Support and Assignment Network
The PCPCC hosted a webinar as part of a new patient, family, and community engagement series focused on Assessing the Practice with Patients and Families- Opportunities to Improve Patient and Family-Centered Care. Access the Training Curriculum for the archived webinar, and view the Resource Library for relevant handouts and resources!

Family Voices Brings Advocacy to Sacramento
As part of its 14th Annual Health Summit and Legislative Day, held in Sacramento in March, Family Voices of California prepared recommendations for improving programs, systems, and services for children with special health care needs. Read the Health Summit Highlights (PDF), including legislative visits, and see the recommendations (page 9).

Group Dedicated to Strengthening Families Issues Standards, Offers Training
The California Network of Family Strengthening Networks has created standards that can be used as a tool for planning, providing, and assessing quality services in organizations that serve families. The standards are designed for use by direct service staff, funders, policymakers, families, and others. Registration required to download the standards.

Webinar: Advances in Asthma and Allergy – Inhaler Confusion
This webinar provided guidelines-based, practical information on asthma and inhaler management. Access the webinar video here.

The Hali Project: Innovative and Promising Practice in Pediatric Medical Home Implementation
This family advocacy organization integrates parent partners into primary care practices to enhance family-centered care, care coordination, and cultural competence. Parent partners undergo continuous training and provide peer support to families of children with special health care needs.

Implementation Insights:
- Place paid parent partners with experience in caring for children and youth with special health care needs in primary care practices.
- Reduce workload burden for physicians by delegating non-medical responsibilities to non-physician team members.
- Create clear and defined roles and responsibilities (including an official job description) for parent partners.
- Provide emotional support and increase resilience to caregivers of children with special health care needs.

Webinar: Leveraging Outreach to Support Clinical Performance Improvement
Health Outreach Partners presents “Leveraging Outreach to Support Clinical Performance Improvement”. In this pre-recorded webinar, faculty present what constitutes clinical performance improvement for health centers. Faculty also provide several examples of how outreach and health center staff can collaborate to improve the delivery of clinical care to patients.
School Health Webinar Series: Managing Care for Students with Chronic Conditions – Shared Use of Electronic Health Records by Health Systems and Schools
This webinar series highlighted how the adoption of electronic health records may improve delivery of health care and help meet the needs of children with chronic conditions. See the full webinar series with slides and recordings – webinar of note, Tackling Health Related Barriers to Learning: State Approaches to Asthma Management in Schools.

National Center for Medical Home Implementation: Technical Assistance and Support for Pediatric Clinicians
The National Center for Medical Home Implementation in the AAP is available to all pediatric clinicians and practices as the premier source for tools, resources, literature, and state-based initiatives focusing on pediatric medical home implementation.

Food Allergy Grant Funding Opportunities
NIH Consortium for Food Allergy Research: Clinical Research Units (UM1) Grant
NIH Consortium for Food Allergy Research: Leadership Center (UM2) Grant

Policy and Advocacy

Senate Passes FAA Reauthorization Bill with Key Provision
The Senate recently passed a reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in a 95-3 vote. The bill contains an AAP-championed provision requiring the FAA to update the emergency medical kits onboard commercial airplanes with appropriate medical equipment for children, consistent with the Airplane Kids in Transit Safety (KITS) Act (S. 2536). Medicine for common medical emergencies that occur in children during air travel, which include seizures, asthma attacks, and anaphylaxis, would be included. The Academy issued a statement upon the bill’s passage, applauding the Senate for including this common-sense provision.

Ways to Engage

Congress Introduces Bill to Protect Students with Asthma
Congress is taking steps to improve how schools across the country manage asthma with the introduction of a bill called the School-Based Asthma Management Programs Act (HR 46620). The bill encourages states to improve asthma care in schools. Schools that adopt improved asthma management programs and policies will have a better chance of receiving federal grant money for asthma programs. Learn more about this bill and find out how you can support it!
In the News...

- Arizona Reviews Parent and Child Asthma Illness Representations
- Kids with More Daily Stress Have More Nightly Asthma Awakenings
- More U.S. Kids Have Chronic Health Problems: Study
- Maryland Study Finds Extreme Heat and Precipitation Linked to More Severe Asthma Cases Requiring Hospitalization
- 2016 Spring Allergy Capitals
- Southampton Researchers Link Birth Season Epigenetic DNA Marks to Allergic Disease
- Hydrolyzed Egg Preparation Safe for Egg-Allergic Children
- Cleaner Air in California May Mean Healthier Kids: Study
- Even Light Hookah Use May Cause Airway Problems
- Spring Allergies? Don’t Assume it’s Only Pollen
- Vanderbilt’s A.S.A.P. Sees Increase in Number of Patients Treated for Alpha-Gal Syndrome
- Children of Salmon-Eating Mothers Less Likely to Develop Asthma
- Explaining Asthma to Children: an Interview with Gabe Ortiz MPAS, PA-C
- Cow’s Milk Allergy in Childhood May Lead to Weaker Bones: Study
- PCMHs, ACOs More Likely to Use EHRs for Population Health
- Researchers Identify Biological Pathway That Explains Why Current Asthma Therapies Fail in Many Cases
- MicroRNAs Circulating in Blood Could Lead to First Diagnostic Test for Asthma
- Study Finds Link Between Low Pollution Levels and Stronger Lungs in California Kids
- MGH-Led Study Confirms Safety of Allergy Immunotherapy
- Taking Antibiotics in Early Childhood Can Disrupt Immune System function Lifelong
- Bronchial Thermoplasty Improves Quality of Life for Severe Refractory Asthmatics
- E-Cigarette Smoking Has More Deleterious Short-Term Effects on Pulmonary Function in Asthmatic Smokers
- Mom Needs to Get More Vitamin D During Second Trimester to Reduce Child’s Asthma Risk
- Sedating Antihistamines Can Intensify Symptoms of Restless Legs Syndrome
- Researchers Observe Worrisome Increase in Anaphylaxis Rate

Chapter Champions Call to Action

**National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month is Upon Us!** Given the seasonal hallmarks of allergy and asthma, May has been named National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month. **NOW** is the time to educate patients, families, colleagues and others in the community about asthma and allergy. Now is also a great time to connect and work with your AAP state chapter to identify potential activities for creating awareness and to discuss asthma and allergy activities in the chapter more broadly. Not sure who your chapter leadership is or how to get connected? Email us, and we are happy to help!

Highlights and resources from other organizations promoting National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month include:

- [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) (CDC) – Asthma Awareness Toolkit
- [Food Allergy Research and Education](https://www.foodallergy.org) (FARE) – Stories of Anaphylaxis, Awareness Posters & Events, Resources
- [Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America](https://www.aafa.org) (AAFA) – Social Media Tools, Awareness Events, Fundraise, and Take Action
Chapter Champions Call to Action (continued)

See below for ideas on how you can be involved in education and awareness-raising:

♦ Contribute to social media campaigns for asthma, allergy, and/or anaphylaxis
♦ Host an open house at your clinic for current patients and families, healthcare provider colleagues, and the community at large
♦ Work with patients, families, and other partners to organize a food allergy-friendly food drive for a local food pantry
♦ Partner with a local volunteer Anaphylaxis Community Expert
♦ Offer an educational event on asthma, allergy, and/or anaphylaxis for parents and families through your clinic or health system
♦ Organize a specific activity within your clinic or health system related to asthma, allergy, and/or anaphylaxis, e.g. train staff on asthma and allergy gadgets; general asthma and allergy information; introduce spirometry; or provide strategies for distributing multi-lingual educational materials to patients and families.
♦ Organize a staff “viewing party” for a recorded MHCCPAAA webinar, for example, the recent Groundbreaking Asthma and Allergy webinar.
♦ Reach out to your AAP State Chapter leadership to identify ways you might work together

Share other ideas with fellow Chapter Champions through the program email list, MHCC@listserv.aap.org!

As always, we regularly update the program website with resources that might be useful to champions. Be sure to check out our website!