



Champion E-Correspondence

December 2012

This is an e-mail communication related to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) "Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma." 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.

Opportunities

Protecting Children and Families from Tobacco: Leadership Advocacy Training

The AAP, [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\)](#), [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\)](#), [American College of Physicians \(ACP\)](#), and the [American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#) are seeking applications from members to be trained as physician leaders in tobacco control advocacy. Physicians interested in or already advocating in their states and communities for policies that support tobacco control, protect nonsmokers, and provide better access to tobacco cessation services are encouraged to apply. The training will be held on April 26-27 in Washington, DC and it will include a mix of panel presentations and small breakout groups. Airfare and hotel accommodations will be provided for selected participants. Applications are due on **January 18 by 4pm Central**. For more information or to download an application, click [here](#).

Grants Available through the AAP Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Program

Grants of up to \$12,000 for pediatricians and \$3,000 for pediatric residents are available through the Academy's [CATCH](#) Program. Applicants should propose innovative initiatives that will ensure all children—especially underserved children—have access to a medical home and access to health services not otherwise available in their communities. Applications will be accepted for Implementation Grants, Planning Grants, and Resident Grants. The deadline is **January 31**. For those interested in applying, a [webinar](#) will be offered on **Monday, January 7 at 12:30 pm Central** to explain the scoring process and provide tips for strengthening your application and project.

Get Involved with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

The [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\)](#) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization authorized by Congress to fund research that will provide patients, families, and health care providers with evidence-based information needed to make more informed health care decisions. PCORI is committed to continuously seeking input from a broad range of stakeholders to guide its work and has implemented a system for patients, health care providers, and others to suggest specific research questions that have a significant impact on their health or the health care system. To contribute a research question, click [here](#). Additionally, the PCORI Improving Methods [Funding Announcement](#) was recently released and will award \$12 million for up to 14 contracts that collaborate with patients and stakeholders to address knowledge gaps and advance the field of comparative clinical effectiveness research. Letters of intent are due on **January 31** and applications are due **March 13**.

MEDICAL HOME

CHAPTER CHAMPIONS

PROGRAM ON ASTHMA

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Webinar—Helping Children Breathe: Effective Strategies to Reduce Tobacco Smoke Exposure for Children with Respiratory Illness](#)
January 16
1:00pm Central
- ◆ [Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs \(AMCHP\) Annual Conference](#)
February 9-12
Washington, DC
- ◆ [American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology \(AAAAI\) Annual Meeting](#)
February 22-26
San Antonio, TX
- ◆ **2013 Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma Conference**
March 2-3
Rosemont (Chicago area), IL
- ◆ [National Conference on Quality Health Care for Culturally Diverse Populations](#)
March 11-14
Oakland, CA
- ◆ [National Medical Home Summit](#)
March 13-15
Philadelphia, PA
- ◆ [Moving Forward with Patient- and Family-Centered Care: Partnerships for Quality and Safety Training Seminar](#)
April 15-18
Annapolis, MD
- ◆ [National Conference on Health Disparities Research at the Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Disability](#)
April 25-26
Washington, DC



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Opportunities (continued)

Applications Available for the National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management

Applications are now available for the [National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management](#). Each year, the US [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) honors exceptional health plans, health care providers, and communities in action with this prestigious award for delivering excellent environmental asthma management as part of their comprehensive asthma care services. Consider applying if your work addresses environmental triggers as part of a comprehensive asthma program, fosters high-performing collaborations and partnerships, and improves the daily lives of those with asthma and their families. Click [here](#) to see award criteria for health care providers. The deadline for the 2013 Award Applications is **February 12 at 10:59pm Central**. Fellow MHCCPA chapter champions Dr Michelle Cloutier (CT) and Dr Adriana Matiz (NY3) have been recipients of this award in previous years.

Resources

Health IT for You Video for Consumers

The [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology](#) created this 3-minute [video](#) for health care consumers that explains how electronic health records and other health information technologies can improve health care and give consumers an opportunity to better manage their own health. This video—designed to increase HIT awareness—describes how medical records can now be accessed by consumers more easily and in a safe and secure way, consumers can save time scheduling appointments, and communication between patients and health care providers can be enhanced. The [National Center for Medical Home Implementation](#) also has fact sheets available online for [families](#) and for [health care professionals](#) that provide information on how the use of health information technologies can improve the medical home.

EPA Sponsors Free CME-Bearing Webinar on the Health Effects of Air Particles on Children

The US [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) is now offering a free, CME-bearing webinar on the effects of particle pollution on children. The online training was developed by the [American College of Medical Toxicology](#) as part of its cooperative agreement with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](#). The webinar is presented in two one-hour segments that cover particulate matter and how it gets into the environment, trends in air quality, air quality regulations, air quality effects on public health, finding air quality information, clinical impacts of particulate matter in the environment, sensitive populations, and appropriate interventions. The webinars can be accessed [here](#). The training must be complete by **March 22** to qualify for continuing education.

The Role of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Asthma Management

The US [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) offered this webinar in early December to help stakeholders assist their states in preparing for CHW reimbursement. The [recording](#) and [slides](#) are now available online. The webinar topics included developing a consistent definition of CHWs, integrating standardized asthma education training into CHW training, ensuring workforce standards for CHW services, developing cost-benefit models to evaluate the financial impact of CHWs on health care systems and policies, and securing partnerships and collaborating with other stakeholders. The [Asthma Community Network](#) has an online discussion board for stakeholders to discuss issues related to CHWs. An active conversation is currently taking place regarding the [appropriate level of training needed for CHWs](#) to educate and manage asthma issues that arise during a home visit.



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Reports

Readability, Suitability, and Characteristics of Asthma Action Plans: Examination of Factors that May Impair Understanding

A study published recently in [Pediatrics](#) examined the readability, suitability, and characteristics (eg, peak flow vs symptom-based, recommended actions, etc) of 30 different asthma action plans to determine the effectiveness of the plans. Findings suggest that improvements could be made in the plans to maximize understanding of appropriate management by the patient and family, particularly for patients and families with low literacy levels. Click [here](#) to read more.

Medical Home Quality and Readmission Risk for Children Hospitalized with Asthma Exacerbations

This [study](#), published in [Pediatrics](#), assessed the impact of medical home quality on health care utilization after hospitalizations. Six hundred children participated in the study, ages 1-16, who had been previously hospitalized due to an acute asthma exacerbation. The Parent's Perception of Primary Care (P3C) survey was used to assess the medical home of each child based on continuity, access, contextual knowledge, comprehensiveness, communication, and coordination. Readmission events were collected using billing data. Results show that poor access to a medical home was associated with increased readmission for asthma. Children with private insurance and good access to care had the lowest rates of readmission within a year.

After-Hours Access to Primary Care Practices Linked With Lower Emergency Department Use and Less Unmet Medical Need

The 2010 Health Tracking Household Survey was used in this study, published in [HealthAffairs](#), to explore the relationship between expanded hours for primary care practices and emergency department use. Of the participants involved, approximately 40% had primary care practices that offered extended hours (at night and/or on weekends). The survey found that those who reported no or little difficulty contacting a clinician after hours had significantly fewer emergency department visits and lower rates of unmet medical need. The study suggests that increasing support to primary care practices to offer or coordinate after-hours care may help reduce rates of emergency department use. Click [here](#) to read more.

In the News...

- [Child Abuse Linked to Greater Risk of Asthma in Adulthood](#)
- [Assisted Reproduction Linked to Greater Risk of Asthma](#)
- [Physicians Should Counsel Youth about Not Smoking](#)
- [AMA Adopts Recommendations for Team-Based Care to Help Physicians Implement Patient-Centered Medical Homes](#)
- [E-Prescribing Among Physicians Increased by 41%](#)
- [Ten Improvements in Health Care Quality in 2012](#)

The AAP [Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma](#) staff provides this e-mail update to the Academy's Medical Home Chapter Champions, other interested AAP members, and staff. For additional information on medical home, visit the [National Center for Medical Home Implementation Web site](#). All comments and inquiries can be sent to Chelsea Rajagopalan at crajaopalan@aap.org or 800/433-9016, ext 4311. If you would like to unsubscribe to the Champions E-Correspondence, contact Chelsea Rajagopalan.