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! We hope everyone is having a great start to 2016! There’s been a lot in the news regarding health updates, including a rise in Flu activity across the United States, especially with more reports of severe influenza illness, particularly from H1N1. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly encourages all children to get vaccinated, especially as people with asthma are at high risk of severe disease and complications from flu. It is not too late for your patients to get vaccinated for the 2015-2016 Flu season. See the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Advisory for more information.

Upcoming Events

- American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference & Exhibition 2016 Abstract Submission now open, due April 8
- American Public Health Association 2016 Annual Meeting, deadlines for Abstract Submission open, February 22-26
- Webinar: Mastering Modifiers, February 24 at 10am PT/11am MT/12pm CT/1pm ET
- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Annual Meeting, March 4-7, Los Angeles, CA
- Practical Pediatrics CME course, March 18-20, Orlando, FL
- 17th Annual Summit on Improving Patient Care in the Office Practice and Community, March 20-22, Orlando, FL
- Webinar: Coding for Pediatric Preventive Services, March 30 at 10am PT/11am MT/12pm CT/1pm ET
- Webinar: Groundbreaking Asthma and Allergy Articles from 2015: Implications for Care and Practice, March 31 at 9am PT/10am MT/11am CT/12pm ET
- Register Today! 2016 AAP Legislative Conference, April 3-5, Washington, DC
- Moving Forward with Patient- and Family-Centered Care: Partnerships for Quality and Safety - An Intensive Training Seminar, April 4-6, Chicago, IL
- 6th Annual Conference Advancing Quality Improvement Science for Children’s Healthcare, April 29, Baltimore, MD
- 7th Annual Pediatric Asthma Conference: Community Engagement as a Bridge to Improve Asthma Outcomes, May 6-7, Columbus, OH
- 7th International Conference on Patient- and Family-Centered Care, July 25-27, New York, NY

Reports

Synopsis Book: Best Articles Relevant to Pediatric Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology
The reviews contained in the Pediatrics 2015 synopsis were written largely by Fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Allergy and Immunology. This Synopsis Book reports advances and key observations that will affect the care of children with allergic and immunologic diseases now and in the near future. Reviewers selected many articles that provide clinical “pearls” and insights that are applicable to daily practice, as well as ones that challenge our previous notions and provide data that may lead to new approaches for diagnosis and treatment.

Timing of Routine Infant Vaccinations and Risk of Food Allergy and Eczema at One Year of Age
Australian researchers used a cohort of 4,433 12-month-old infants and found no overall association between delayed DTaP vaccine administration and primary outcomes of food allergy or atopic sensitization, according to a study in Allergy* (December 2015). Findings showed that delayed DTaP vaccine administration was tied to reduced eczema and reduced use of eczema medication.
Asthma May be Linked to Shingles Risk
People who suffer from asthma may be more likely to develop the painful skin condition known as shingles, a new study in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (December 2015) suggests. The finding builds on previous research that suggested a link between childhood asthma and shingles risk. The researchers analyzed the medical records of patients with suspected cases of shingles. They identified 371 people (average age 67) with the condition. Those patients were compared to 742 people who didn’t have shingles. Of the 371 shingles cases, 23 percent of the patients had asthma. However, just 15 percent of the people who didn’t have shingles had asthma, the researchers found. People with asthma had a roughly 70 percent higher risk for shingles than people without asthma, the researchers reported.

Preseasonal Treatment with Either Omalizumab or an Inhaled Corticosteroid Boost to Prevent Fall Asthma Exacerbations
A recent study in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (December 2015) known as the PROSE (Preventative Omalizumab or Step-Up Therapy for Fall Exacerbations) Trial, looked at whether or not a preventative strategy of treating patients with omalizumab (Xolair) four to six weeks before the start of school and continuing it for the next four months helped prevent the asthma flare-ups that typically come during the fall season when children return to school, a time known as the September Epidemic of Asthma. Study findings indicate that preventative treatment with omalizumab does reduce fall exacerbations in a high-risk group of allergic asthma subjects. This effect was seen most notably in participants who had experienced a recent exacerbation.

Effect of Prenatal Supplementation with Vitamin D on Asthma or Recurrent Wheezing in Offspring by Age 3 Years: the VDAART Randomized Clinical Trial; and Effect of Vitamin D Supplementation During Pregnancy on Risk of Persistent Wheeze in the Offspring
These two related articles published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (January 2016) explore the impact on women who take vitamin D supplements during pregnancy and how the supplements may not reduce their child's risk of asthma, chronic wheezing, respiratory tract infections or eczema. According to pulmonary specialist Len Horovitz, MD, pregnant women still may benefit from the supplement, however, because there is a widespread problem of vitamin D deficiency and it is beneficial for the immune system, bone growth in the fetus and wound healing.

Changing Trends in Asthma Prevalence among Children
According to a study published in Pediatrics (January 2016), asthma rates among US children ages 17 and younger doubled from 1980 to 1995, increased to 9.3% by 2010 and then declined to 8.3% by 2013. Researchers based their findings on annual in-person government health surveys of parents of more than 150,000 children and found that declines in asthma rates in the most recent years were among children younger than 5, those of Mexican descent and children living in the Midwestern region and from non-poor families.

Allergic Diseases and Internalizing Behaviors in Early Childhood
A study in the journal Pediatrics (January 2016) found that children with allergies since they were young had a higher risk of developing depression and anxiety, compared with children without allergies. Findings show that children with more allergies also had higher depression and anxiety scores.

In Utero Exposure to β-2-Adrenergic Receptor Agonist Drugs and Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders
This article published in Pediatrics (February 2016), highlights children whose mothers took beta-agonists, or drugs used to control asthma, while pregnant were 30% more likely to develop autism spectrum disorder than those not exposed to such drugs, which researchers called a modest increase. The study in used a cohort of 57,200 Danish children with and without ASD and found that just under 4% of children with autism had prenatal exposure to beta-agonists, compared with 3% of those without the disorder.
Champion E-Correspondence  
February 2016

Reports (continued)

Allergic Manifestation 15 Years after Early Intervention with Hydrolyzed Formulas – the GINI Study
A study in the journal Allergy (February 2016) showed that 30.8% of infants in the partially hydrolyzed whey formula containing oligosaccharides group and 30.3% of those in the standard cow’s milk formula group had eczema by 12 months. UK researchers followed 863 infants at high risk for allergic disease and found that pHF-OS didn’t change most immune markers of the condition, but it reduced cow’s milk-specific immunoglobulin G1 and increased the percentages of regulatory T cell and plasmacytoid dendritic cell.

*Subscription log in may be required

Resources

New Info Sheet From Family Voices: How the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Helps Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
Family Voices recognizes the critical importance of the services that are available to families through the Title V Block Grant. This 1-page info sheet describes services funded by the Title V Block Grant for families of children/youth with special health care needs. Learn about the importance of this public health program available in every state. Visit the Family Voices website to find several resources on Title V.

Medical Home Modules for Pediatric Residency Programs
A series of five case-based, educational modules on key medical home principles for pediatric residency programs is now available. Designed to be incorporated into existing curriculum by residency program directors and faculty, the modules educate residents on such principles as care coordination, transition to adult care and team-based care.

A summary of thirty primary care patient-centered medical home initiatives from around the country that measures cost and utilization of services, and new this year, payment models.

American Academy of Dermatology Releases Chronic Hives Patient App
Patients who are struggling with chronic hives can turn to a new FREE tool for help. In December, the American Academy of Dermatology released its Chronic Hives Patient App, which offers tools and resources for chronic hives management.

A Self-Care Tool for Asthma
Asthma Storylines from the Allergy & Asthma Network, powered by Health Storylines™, is a FREE self-care app for managing asthma for patients. It gives an accurate, shareable record of the asthma experience between physician visits, and helps patients and teams collaborate on treatment strategies.

Affordable Care Act Fact Sheets for Families - Now in Spanish
Created by the National Center for Medical Home Implementation and the Catalyst Center, these four plain language fact sheets explain specific provisions of the Affordable Care Act which benefit children and youth with special health care needs. Available in Spanish and English.
Health Care Transition Clinical Report Reaffirmation

Receive a free Pediatric ICD-10-CM Manual when you watch the Digital Navigator Demo
Transform your practice to the Patient- and Family-Centered Medical Home model of care - for more information visit Digital Navigator. Contact DNSales@aap.org to schedule a personalized demo of the Digital Navigator and receive a FREE ICD-10-CM Manual. Special offer expires on March 31, 2016.

Strategies to Enhance Care for Hispanic Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
Created by the National Center for Medical Home Implementation and based on lessons learned from a community-based medical home project in Rhode Island, this fact sheet provides clinicians with strategies on how to enhance care for Hispanic children, youth and their families.

Rhode Island: Advancing the medical home model in pediatrics
The Rhode Island Pediatric Practice Enhancement Project places family/peer resource specialists in pediatric practice to enhance care coordination, family-centered care, and cultural competency for families and children. Learn about the project’s components, payment model, and outcomes by viewing the Rhode Island State Profile created by the National Center for Medical Home Implementation in partnership with the National Academy for State Health Policy.

Weiss Pediatric Care: Promising practices in pediatric medical home implementation
Weiss Pediatric Care in Sarasota, Florida, is an innovative and promising practice in pediatric medical home implementation. Visit the National Center for Medical Home Implementation website to learn practical pediatric medical home

Webinar Recording: Coordinated Care: Making In-Home Asthma Visit Referrals Work

Workshop Video Available: Models of Care for High-Need Patients. The Workshop, hosted by the National Academy of Medicine Leadership Consortium for Value- and Science-Driven Health Care, explored how to better serve high-need patients, improve health outcomes, and reduce costs.
Champion E-Correspondence

February 2016

Policy and Advocacy

Find out where your state stands on school asthma policies
The 2015 State Honor Roll of Asthma and Allergy Policies for Schools describes states with the best public policies for people with asthma, food allergies, anaphylaxis and related allergic diseases in US elementary, middle, and high schools. Read the report and learn how you can get involved!

Entity Laws Moving Forward
Does your state allow restaurants, daycare centers, and other public venues to stock epinephrine auto-injectors in case of an emergency? Learn more and consider getting involved in entity legislation in your state!

Ways to Engage

Media Tips for Pediatricians Giving Interviews
Debuting in the February issue of AAP News, Mastering the Media, is a new column from the AAP Council on Communications and Media. It tackles topics related to how media are relevant to pediatricians and impact children and adolescents and how media interviews can be opportunities to promote child health and to advocate for children.

Join the AAP Mentorship Program
Mentorship is one of the most important tools for professional development and has been linked to greater productivity, career advancement, and professional satisfaction. The AAP Mentorship Program seeks to establish mentoring relationships between trainees/early career physicians and practicing AAP member physicians. Click here for more information and to join the program. Please note: Mentors are asked to commit approximately one full academic year. However, the program also offers opportunities for short-term “flash” mentoring.

Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program
Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) assist health care organizations, health care networks, and health care providers in the implementation of cost-effective telehealth programs to serve rural and medically underserved areas and populations. This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will fund two different types of TRCs. This FOA will support twelve TRCs that focus on State-wide and regional telehealth activities and are referred to as Regional TRCs (RTRCs). This FOA will also fund two National TRCs (NTRCs) that focus on telehealth policy or technology activities with a national scope. This funding cycle will support up to twelve RTRCs, with one per region as shown below. RTRCs will serve as focal points for advancing the effective use of telehealth technologies in their respective communities and States. Application deadline is March 4, 2016.

Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Planning, Implementation, and Resident Grants
The 2017 Cycle 1 Call for Proposals will be open from May 2 to July 29, 2016. Grants of up to $10,000 for pediatricians and fellowship trainees and $2,000 for pediatric residents are available from the CATCH program for innovative community-based child health initiatives that will ensure all children have medical homes, proper and timely immunizations, and access to health services not otherwise available in their communities.
Champion E-Correspondence

February 2016

In the News...

- Ohio passes law to improve access to asthma medication in schools and camps
- Predicting Peanut Allergy Immunotherapy Outcomes
- Parents Perception of Care for a Child’s Food Allergy
- Researchers Find Protein that Plays Crucial Role In Development of Allergic Airway Inflammation
- ‘2016 State of Public Health’ with CDC Director Tom Frieden
- Guidelines for find the right summer camp for children with allergies or asthma
- New Northwestern Medicine Project Aims to Understand Effects of Asthma, Eczema on Children
- Allergies, Asthma Tied to Lower Risk of Brain Cancer
- UAB Discovery May Offer New Therapeutic Approaches to Asthma
- Most Allergy Sufferers Not Getting Relief from Over-the-Counter Meds

Chapter Champions Call to Action

Make it an easy one-stop shop for information and updates related to asthma, allergy and anaphylaxis care within the medical home, for you and your chapter members! Contact your Chapter Executive Director today and ask your chapter to include a link to the Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma, Allergy and Anaphylaxis webpage as a tagline to chapter newsletters and/or on the chapter website.

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