

Asthma Information Review Course

“Referral & Professional Networking”

Presented by:

Kathleen Slonager, RN, DiHOM, ADS, AE-C
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America
Michigan Chapter



Referral & Professional Networking

- 7 key areas in this section
- Ranging from community resources to appropriate referrals for clients
- Common sense
- NHLBI Guidelines



- Documentation & Tracking System vital to continuity of care
- This includes use of databases, software, or your own clinic EMR
- Be sure to document the AAP (Asthma Action Plan) and ensure copies distributed to appropriate places & people

Community Resources - 1

- These are mostly non-clinical
- Each community different – know yours!
- College & University Social Worker programs
- United Way: “211”
- Typical resources to have on hand should include:
 - Housing & Furniture
 - Transportation
 - Food, clothing

Housing

- Salvation Army & others
- Housing County Commission Section 8
- www.Michigan.gov/Helping Hand:
"housing help" tab
- Habitat for Humanity
- HUD "Healthy Homes" (GHHI)
programs
- Landlord/Tenant Collaborations

Transportation



- Medicaid benefit
- Cab vouchers
- Public transportation (MDOT, SmartBus, etc.)
- Go Bus, FISH, etc.
- Search “ADA Transportation Michigan” for more

Food & Clothing

- Food and clothing banks by location ie: Salvation Army
- Detroit Farmer's Market – “double up food bucks”
- Food Bank Council of Michigan (www.fbcmich.org)
- Churches, Temples, Mosques, Community Centers
- Area Agency on Aging (www.mi-seniors.net)

Family Support Education Activities -2

- Utilize programs and resources already in your community
- They will have programs & services that are in-person or on-line. Here are the major players:
 - Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America (www.aafa.org)
 - American Lung Association (www.lungusa.org)
 - Allergy & Asthma Network (www.aanma.org)
 - MI Local Coalitions (www.getastmahelp.org)

Family Support Education Activities continued

- Support Groups (on-line or in-person)
- Local Hospital
- Provide in-services at workplace and school
- Especially important will be:
 - AAP/AMP (Asthma Action Plan/Asthma Management Plan)
 - Michigan Compiled Law 380.1179 (self-carry in school law)
 - Issues around EIA/EIB
 - Need for Medic-Alert Tags, etc.

Insurance & Financial Issues - 3

- MI-Child or Medicaid & Expansion
- Affordable Care Act (?)
- County Health Insurance Programs, ie: Health Authority (Wayne County)
- Children Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) via MDCH – asthma is a qualifying diagnosis!
- Department of Human Services (formally known as FIA)

Google for websites/contact info

Insurance & Financial Issues

continued

- Free or Sliding Scale Clinics – access your local clinics – Google it!
- Federally Qualified Health Centers:
<http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>
- Other regional resources:
 - Find Care in Mich: www.findmicare.org
 - Tri-County Dental Health:
www.dentalhealthcouncil.org

Regional Clinic Resources,

continued

- Community Health Centers (also FQHC) via Michigan Primary Care Association:
www.mpca.net
- MDCH – www.michigan.gov & search “Free or Low Cost Primary Care” or call (517) 241-7185
- Free Clinics of Michigan:
www.FCOMI.ORG

Insurance & Financial Issues

continued



- Pharmaceutical Support

- Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA): www.pparxmi.org #888.477.2669 (+ for uninsured & under-insured)
- Together RX Access: www.togetherrxaccess.com #800.250.2839 (only uninsured)
- Needy Meds - Find lowest costs meds and coupons in your area: www.NeedyMeds.org or call (800) 503-6897
- Clinics, Hospitals & AAFA Chapters often have med assistance programs

When to Refer to a Specialist - 4

- 2 X / Year is standard of care
- There are difficulties in achieving or maintaining control of asthma
- Additional education is needed to improve adherence
- Patient requires step 4 care or higher (step 3 care or higher for children 0–4 years of age)

Specialist Referral continued

- Consider referral if a patient requires step 3 care (step 2 care for children 0–4 years of age) or if additional testing for the role of allergy is indicated
- Immunotherapy or omalizumab (Xolair) are considered
- Exacerbation requiring hospitalization
- Patient has required more than 2 bursts of oral corticosteroids in 1 year or has an exacerbation requiring hospitalization

Specialist Referral continued

- Other conditions complicate asthma or diagnosis; e.g., sinusitis, nasal polyps, aspergillosis, severe rhinitis, VCD, GERD, COPD
- Patient requires confirmation of an occupational or environmental inhalant or ingested substance

Specialist Referral continued

- Additionally, patients who have significant psychiatric, psychosocial, or family problems that interfere with their asthma therapy may need referral to an appropriate mental health professional for counseling or treatment (These problems have been shown to interfere with a patients ability to adhere to treatment)



Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma, National Asthma Education and Prevention Program of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Expert Panel Report, 2007

Collaborating – 5

- Keep lines of communication open
- Expand your own network – keep current
- Partner with coalitions, project teams & grant funded programs
- Resources ready for clinician education: PACE, MDCH, Org's like AAFA, ALA, National Jewish, AAAAI, CHEST, ACAA
- Don't rewrite the wheel – check for community resources

Care Coordination - 6

- Coordinate between other providers and systems – team!
- Ideally, the AE-C works closely with a medical director & an advisory board to establish, maintain, & develop an effective program
- Remember, the patient and family are key members of the team
- Other physicians that may be involved:
 - Primary care physicians
 - Allergists
 - ENT specialists
 - Pulmonologists
 - Pediatricians

Care Coordination, continued

Other non-physicians involved

- Nurses and Nurse Practitioners
- Respiratory Therapists
- Pharmacists
- Physician Assistants
- Pharmaceutical sales reps
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Medical social workers
- DME providers
- Case managers
- Teachers and employers
- Managed care administrators & Case or Disease Mgt

Education & Technical Assistance - 7

- Provide education & technical assistance to:
 - Third-party payers
 - Community & health care professionals
 - Work sites
 - Schools
 - Faith-base groups
 - All of your collaborators

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Kathleen Slonager, RN, AE-C, CCH
Executive Director
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America –
Michigan Chapter
2075 Walnut Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323
#888.444.0333 aafamich@sbcglobal.net
www.aafamich.org

Follow us on Facebook or Twitter: aafami

Thank you Jan Fields, EdD, RRT, AE-C & Karen Meyerson, RN, MSN, FNP-C, AE-C for your notes