

Montana Asthma Advisory Group Virtual Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2020
9am-11:30am

Welcome and Introductions- Attendees

BJ Biskupiak, Mary Duthie, Jessie Fernandes, Carolyn Linden, Ann Lanes, Jennifer VanSyckle, Pamela Melton, Dewey Hahlbohm, Michael Zacharisen, Kaitlyn Frenk, Mary Kay Burns, Leigh Ann Holmes, Breanne Josephson, Kris Minard, Marisa Johnson, Mary Pierce, Nicole Aune, Meg Traci, Marcy Ballman, Mary Milin, Collin Laing, Anna Buckley

Asthma Program 2020: Highlights & Aligning with the Strategic Asthma Plan (PDF attached)

- The group discussed University of Montana's participation in the [National Care Coordination Academy](#).
 - The National Center for Care Coordination Technical Assistance (NCCCTA) provides technical assistance to any entity focused on pediatric care coordination capacity building and measurement
 - The NCCCTA is housed within the Integrated Care Program at Boston Children's Hospital and is a partnership with the National Center for Medical Home Implementation (NCMHI) in the American Academy of Pediatrics.
 - A Montana interdisciplinary team is participating in a unique learning community centered on implementation of care coordination. Through workshop-structured learning opportunities, regular virtual meetings, and targeted technical assistance, the [National Care Coordination Academy](#) supports Montana efforts to acquire the essential knowledge, skills, and competencies for effective care coordination in the Big Sky.
 - Connect with the Montana Team
Member Listserv: MTCCA-L@LISTS.UMT.EDU
Team Coordination Contact: Kelsey Christopher, kelsey.christopher@umontana.edu
Team Leadership Contact: Marty Blair, martin.blair@umontana.edu or Sarah Holexa, sholexa@montanapediatrics.org
 - Asthma Control Program partners could consider participating in the learning modules to gain knowledge on how to improve their care coordination. The MACP can promote this opportunity in future communications to partners. Healthcare sites working on quality improvement, especially pediatric offices, will receive information about this opportunity and be encouraged to participate.

Data Report/Evaluation (PDF attached)

Group Discussion:

Asthma Home Visiting & Telehealth

COVID-19 Impacts in Eastern MT

Breanne Josephson RRT

- Have the healthcare organizations in Sidney and other parts of eastern Montana been able to acquire equipment needed to respond to the pandemic?
 - Sidney Health Center has enough ventilators, but they've been trying use more CPAP and BiPAP with COVID patients. Ideally, it's best to avoid going on a ventilator if at possible.
 - Respiratory staff have been able to manage caseload, but the hospital has been trying to bring in additional staff to help with surge.
 - If patients need additional care beyond what can be provided at Sidney Health Center, they have to be flown out and they require staff support. The goal is to not intubate.



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- Age and underlying conditions have been bigger factors in determining who is hospitalized or treated for moderate to severe COVID-19 symptoms. Asthma has not been an issue. Patients with asthma have been focusing more on their self-care during the pandemic.
- When it comes to promoting the use of masks parents have pushed back more than youth patients. The youth tolerate the masks and don't typically have issues. If someone's asthma is under control, they shouldn't have any worries about wearing a mask to protect themselves from COVID-19 transmission. In Richland County, schools have taken a slightly different approach than in other parts of the state, creating their own protocols based on other districts in other states.
 - Students can choose to continue to participate in online instruction through the end of the second quarter.
- How are the attitudes of the patients you've seen who have been hospitalized for COVID-19?
 - A few patients felt like COVID-19 wasn't a big deal before they were hospitalized. Some patients have been very grateful for the care they've received and have even share their story on Facebook. The majority of patients sharing their stories have been older women.
 - DPHHS and local public health should look into how they can share personal recovery stories with the public.
- There were some medication shortages early on as asthma medications were being used to treat COVID-19. This was mostly seen with Flovent.

Billings Clinic Pediatric Pulmonology: Supporting Severe Persistent Asthma Patients
Kaitlyn Frenk, PA

What does this support include? / What does a program look like?

- ACT
- Medication Review
- Referrals to specialty pharmacist for additional education and support
- PFT when patients come in, comparing their longitudinal measurements
- Assessing allergies and performing allergy tests if needed
- Directing patients to social services support
- Tracking "No-Show" rate
 - It was suggested that Billings Clinic Peds. Pulmonology could screen for social determinants of health. The care coordination academy could help with training and/or resources.
 - Telehealth has been another way to try to engage these patients.
- Coordinating care with other providers

Centers for Independent Living received funding through the CARES Act to help support individuals by providing HEPA filters, improving internet connectivity, and helping to purchase electronic devices. This may be a great resource for B. Clinic Peds. Pulmonology and other partners.

COVID-19 & Opportunities for Tobacco Cessation (PDF attached)
Nicole Aune, MTUPP Program Manager

Next Meeting: May 2021

