

# Improving Patient Monitoring for Patients Taking Omalizumab for Allergy Related Asthma

## The Problem

In patients with moderate to severe asthma with an allergic basis, omalizumab, a biologic agent, can be considered, and may decrease the amount of asthma exacerbations.

- Patients with moderate to severe asthma need regular follow-up and monitoring
- Some patients coming up for renewal of prescription did not have suggested monitoring, Given high cost of medication and need for monitoring, insurance and health plans require regular provider visits and monitoring of lung functions – i.e., recent spirometry-for renewal of prescriptions.

## Aim/Goal

Improve follow-up care with patients who have moderate to severe asthma on omalizumab as evidenced by annual spirometry screening and annual Allergy clinic visits. Ensure proper available data for insurance companies for prompt renewal of medications. In addition, determine if patients with moderate to severe asthma and who after initiation and with maintenance on omalizumab, have decreased asthma exacerbations requiring visits to the emergency department.

## The Team

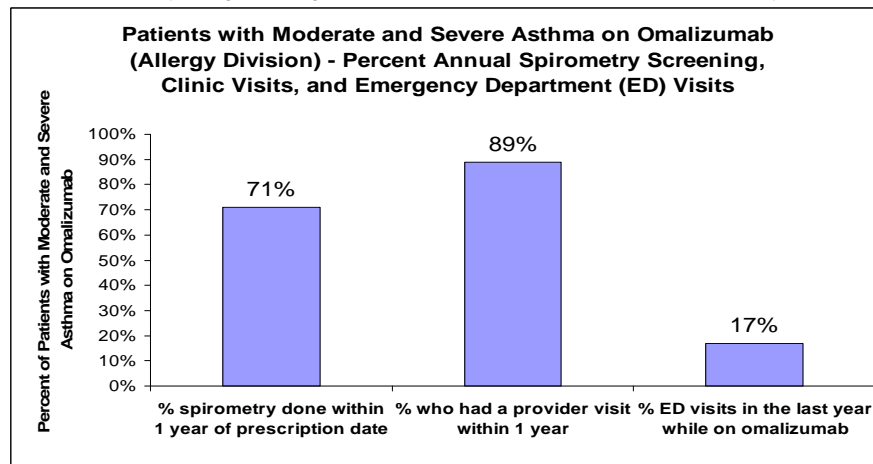
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## The Interventions

- Monitor and track patients with moderate to severe asthma on omalizumab
- Outreach to patients by telephone to schedule visit with provider and order spirometry within a year since last evaluation
- Monitor impact on asthma control, as well as emergency department utilization of our patients on this medication longitudinally to evaluate its use and cost benefit for our patients.

## The Results/Progress to Date

This is our first year gathering data. We aim to have improvements next year. N=35



## Lessons Learned

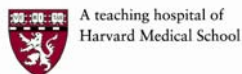
- For some patients, more frequent follow-up and evaluation may be needed. The Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR3): Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma, published in 2007, state that for persistent asthma management, 1-6 month follow-up interval is recommended.
- Regular review and evaluation of a therapy impacting our patients' asthma is needed.

## Next Steps/What Should Happen Next

- Continue to gather data and monitor
- Continue to review data and make follow-up appointments sooner if needed
- Educate patients and discuss the importance of follow-up.



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