

Prescription of Inhaled Corticosteroids for Patients with Asthma

The Problem

Although inhaled corticosteroids have long been accepted as first-line controller medications for asthma patients, in the Ambulatory Pulmonary Clinic we found that only 76% of patients with asthma had an active prescription for inhaled corticosteroids.

Aim/Goal

To ensure that all appropriate patients with asthma seen in the Ambulatory Pulmonary Clinic have an active prescription of inhaled corticosteroids.

The Team

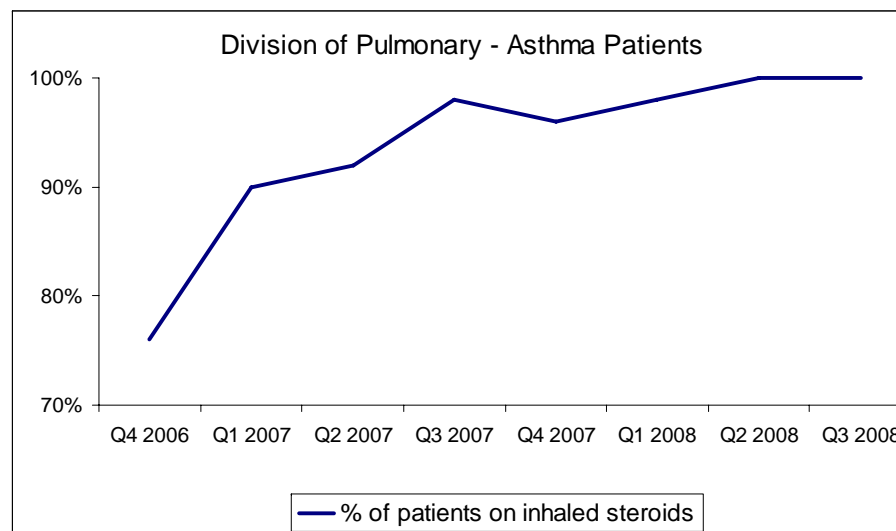
David Roberts, MD, Naama Neeman, MSc, Joanne Schulze, J. Woodrow Weiss, MD, Mark D. Aronson, MD.

The Interventions

- Set a goal of 100% compliance in prescribing inhaled corticosteroids for patients with asthma seen in the Ambulatory Pulmonary Clinic.
- Reviewed electronic medical records: a sample of 50 visits, out of approximately 250 visits, is reviewed on a quarterly basis.
- Designed a database and an electronic dashboard for data collection; and presentation on this as well as other Pulmonary QI measures.
- Used Individual score cards to report clinicians' performance.
- Provided quarterly feedback to physicians on their individual performance compared to the performance of the group.

The Results

Compliance at the beginning of the intervention was 76%, and increased sharply almost immediately after the program started. We have been performing well since Q1 07 with over 90% of patients being prescribed inhaled corticosteroids. Since Q3 07, this rate has consistently been over 95%. In the past 2 quarters (Q2 and Q3 2008) compliance rate has been 100%.



Lessons Learned

Successful implementation of improvement projects requires ongoing direct communication of overall goals to the faculty as a whole, repeated personal encouragement to individual providers, and a willingness to set ambitious quality goals to which divisional leaders and individual faculty members are held.



Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



A teaching hospital of
Harvard Medical School

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For More Information Contact
Naama Neeman, MSc
Medicine QI Project Manager
(nneeman@bidmc.harvard.edu)