Project BREATHE: Improving Adherence to Pediatric Asthma Guidelines

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Purpose

Project BREATHE (Bringing Resources for Effective Asthma Treatment through Health Education) is a quality improvement project that began at Cohen’s Children Medical Center (CCMC) in 2012 with the support of the Asthma Coalitions of Queens and Long Island.

Asthma is the leading cause of chronic illness among children and adolescents in the United States. Approximately 6 million children are affected by asthma. Asthma complications have accounted for 10.5 million missed schooldays, 456,000 hospitalizations, and 1.75 million hospital emergency room visits annually. In May 2014, CCMC was challenged with reducing asthma readmissions by 10% and increasing provider adherence to the Asthma Management Guidelines—particularly the assessment, documentation and proper classification of asthma severity—by 70%.

Problem/Significance

Its primary aim is to reduce asthma related hospital admissions while increasing adherence to the Asthma Management Guidelines developed by the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) via use of an interdisciplinary asthma education program.

Strategy/Implementation

With the institution of a Certified Asthma Educator (AE-C) and the re-education of staff, CCMC was able to decrease the asthma re-admissions by 50% and increase compliance to the documentation with evidence of asthma severity classification by 86%.