Asthma Action Plan

PROVIDER INSTRUCTIONS

At initial presentation, determine the level of asthma severity

- Level of severity is determined by both impairment and risk and is assigned to the most severe category in which any feature occurs.

At subsequent visits, assess control to adjust therapy

- Level of control is determined by both impairment and risk and is assigned to the most severe category in which any feature occurs.
- Address adherence to medication, inhaler technique, and environmental control measures.
- Sample patient self-assessment tools for asthma control can be found at http://www.asthmacontrol.com/index.html
  http://www.asthmacontrolcheck.com

Stepwise approach for managing asthma:

- Therapy is increased (stepped up) if necessary and decreased (stepped down) when possible as determined by the level of asthma severity or asthma control.

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Ensure that patient/family receive education about asthma and how to use spacers and other medication delivery devices.
- Assess asthma control at every visit by self-administered standardized test or verbal history.
- Perform spirometry at baseline and at least every 1 to 2 years for patients > 5 years of age.
- Update or review the Asthma Action Plan every 6 to 12 months.
- Perform skin or blood allergy tests for all patients with persistent asthma.
- Encourage patient/family to continue follow-up with their clinician every 1 to 6 months even if asthma is well controlled.
- Refer patient to a specialist if:
  - there are difficulties achieving or maintaining control
  - step 4 care or higher is required (step 3 care or higher for children 0-4 years of age) OR
  - immunotherapy or omalizumab is considered OR
  - additional testing is indicated OR
  - if the patient required 2 bursts of oral systemic corticosteroids in the past year or a hospitalization.

HOW TO USE THE ASTHMA ACTION PLAN:

Top copy (for patient):

- Enter specific medication information and review the instructions with the patient and/or family.
- Educate patient and/or family about factors that make asthma worse and the remediation steps on the back of this form.
- Complete and sign the bottom of the form and give this copy of the form to the patient.

Middle copy (for school, childcare, work, etc):

- Educate the parent/guardian on the need for their signature on the back of the form in order to authorize student self-carry and self-administration of asthma medications at school and also to authorize sharing student health information with school staff.
- Provide this copy of the form to the school/childcare center/work/caretaker or other involved third party. (This copy may also be faxed to the school, etc.)

Bottom copy (for chart):

- File this copy in the patient’s medical chart.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To access the August 2007 full version of the NHLBI Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Asthma (EPR-3) or the October 2007 Summary Report, visit http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/index.htm.