

Abstract

Background: Ontario's Asthma Plan of Action (APA) is an evidence-based program that supports best practices for addressing asthma educational needs across a variety of healthcare settings and community environments. The goal of the APA is to reduce mortality, morbidity and healthcare costs for children and adults with asthma through integrated initiatives focused on health promotion and prevention, management, treatment, research and surveillance.

Our directive: The Lung Association's Provider Education Program (PEP) has a mandate to develop, implement and evaluate accredited continuing medical education (CME) programs and materials that promote the Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) respiratory guidelines. The program is intended for primary healthcare professionals as a key initiative of the Ontario APA program. The program builds on the success of The Provider Education in Asthma Care Project. Participants reported improvements in asthma care, including prescribing practices, use of spirometry and written action plans. The PEP is led by a multi-disciplinary steering committee and chaired by Ontario Thoracic Society (OTS) representatives.

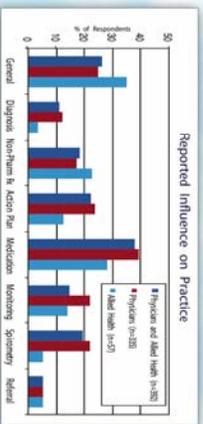
Our success: Since PEP's inception in 2002, there has been an exceptional response and attendance at our Asthma, Spirometry, Interpretation and COPD vs. Asthma Workshops across Ontario: 5600 health care professionals have attended 290 of our workshops.

Discussion: A unique feature of the APA is the partnerships that have been formed to develop, implement and evaluate programs. PEP in partnership with the APA Work-Related Asthma (WRA) Program, offers a coordinated approach for work-related asthma prevention education for workers and for healthcare providers. Through collaboration with the Primary Care Asthma Program (PCAP) and the Ontario College of Family Physicians, we are developing a collaborative care model for PCAP primary care providers on spirometry interpretation and technique. Evaluation of our programs indicates a continuing need for respiratory education. We aim to address the respiratory educational needs of providers through all modes of care throughout Ontario.



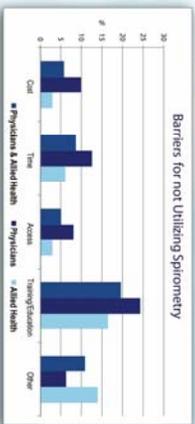
Background

The program builds on the success of The Provider Education in Asthma Care Project. Primary care providers attending the pilot workshops demonstrated needs for improved asthma knowledge and skills, particularly medication plans for chronic management and creation of written action plans. Participants rated this provincial asthma CME program highly, would recommend it to a colleague, and remained satisfied with the workshop 3 months later. Participants reported improvements in asthma care, including prescribing practices, use of spirometry and written action plans.¹



Spirometry

The need for spirometry education as it relates to technique, interpretation and implementation continues to exist amongst primary care providers across Ontario. Barriers to utilization of spirometry in primary care have included challenges related to interpretation of spirometric data. 7728 (5% attendees (35 physicians and 42 allied health providers) listed the barriers for not utilizing spirometry.²



- In addressing spirometry education needs, the following programs have been developed or are underway:
- Spirometry Interpretation Workshops
 - Spirometry MedHealth e-module (underway)
 - Spirometry in Primary Care CD-Rom
 - PCAP Collaborative Care Pilot Project (Stakeholders: CCFP and PCAP)

Our Programs

Through multiple methods to effectively transfer asthma knowledge and skills into practice, the following methods for knowledge translation are included: Workshops that include didactic presentations by opinion leaders, peer facilitators, case-based learning, CME through the Ontario Telemedicine Network, audience response system and web-based learning.

Workshops

- MainPro-C accredited workshops
- Asthma (Adult, Pediatric, Pre-school)
- Spirometry, Interpretation (Eng. & Fra.)
- COPD vs. Asthma (Eng. & Fra.)
- Work-Related Asthma
- Asthma Action Plans



Web-based Learning

On-line interactive continued medical education (CME) allows participants to access and complete the courses at their own pace and time.

E-modules www.olapep.ca/cme

- Evidence-based clinical review asthma cases on Adult and Pediatric Asthma related asthma
- Work-Related Asthma - Framework for the diagnosis and management of work-related asthma

Video Presentations www.olapep.ca

- Adult Asthma - Dr. Diane Lougheed, MD, MSc, FRCPC
- Achieving Control of Pediatric Asthma - Dr. Sharon Dell, BEng, MD, FRCPC
- COPD - Dr. Arna Day, MD, FRCPC, FCCP

CDs

- Inhalation Devices Techniques and Procedures
- Spirometry in Primary Care

Work-Related Asthma

In Canada, work-related asthma (WRA) is the most common chronic occupational respiratory disease. To help reduce the high financial and human health costs of WRA, the Ontario Lung Association in collaboration with Workplace Safety and Prevention Services (WSPS) and the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW), create awareness of WRA among employers and workers in high-risk industries, with a focus on early recognition and prevention. The Work-Related Asthma program offers a coordinated approach for work-related asthma prevention education for workers and for healthcare providers.



www.olapep.ca/wra

Conclusion

The Provider Education Program supports best practices that continue to address the respiratory educational needs of providers across all spectrums of the healthcare setting including Family Health Teams and Community Health Centers. Through various partnerships, we offer a coordinated approach to respiratory education throughout Ontario.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the continued support of our PEP committee.

Members:

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
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References

1. Lougheed MD, Moosa D, Fringson S, et al. Impact of a Provincial Asthma Guidelines Continuing Medical Education Project. The Ontario Asthma Plan of Action's Provider Education in Asthma Care Project. Canadian Respiratory Journal, March 2007, Vol 14, No.2: 111-117.
2. Moosa D, D'Urzo A.D., Tamari I., Lieskai C., Coates A.L., Impact of Spirometry Workshops in Primary Care. IPCRG Conference, 2010.

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