

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the spring of 2009, National Jewish Health conducted four educational programs entitled *Making the Right Diagnosis: The Need for Spirometry* in four cities: Atlanta, Berkeley, Chicago and Washington, D.C., and two additional programs, in Denver and Miami, in the fall of 2009. These *Spirometry* programs were designed to “inform primary care physicians and allied health professionals how to adequately recognize, diagnose, and deal with the heterogeneity of COPD, from its clinical course, diagnosis and outcomes.”¹ As with all CME activities, National Jewish Health wished to determine the success of these dinner meetings along several dimensions. Based upon the findings of this outcomes assessment, we can conclude that this CME/CE event was successful in terms of: participant satisfaction; knowledge gain; and impact on practice.

SATISFACTION

- 98% of those who completed the Evaluation survey immediately following the meeting gave a Top-Two-Box rating for meeting the program’s stated learning objectives.
- 97% of participants gave a Top-Two-Box rating for this event compared to other CME/CE events they had experienced within the previous year.
- 91% of participants were either “Extremely” or “Very Satisfied” with this event when re-surveyed 45-days after attending the meeting.

KNOWLEDGE

- A before/after comparison of participants’ knowledge regarding spirometry revealed statistically significant improvements on five of nine measures:
 - "In clinical practice, is it important to distinguish COPD from asthma?"
 - “The definition of COPD includes the terms 'emphysema' or 'chronic bronchitis.'”
 - “Which of the following is NOT a common feature of asthma as compared to COPD?”
 - “What is your diagnosis in a 55-year-old male current smoker who has a productive cough in the morning for many years and now presents with progressive dyspnea and occasional wheezing?”
 - “A patient whom you recently diagnosed with GOLD Stage 3 COPD has a resting pulse oximetry of 84%. Do you recommend chronic therapy with supplemental oxygen?”

IMPACT

- 39% of respondents who were surveyed 45 days after attending the event said that they are now comfortable using spirometry, representing a statistically significant 22-point increase over the percentage who said they were comfortable using spirometry prior to attending the CME event (17%).
- 78% of respondents indicated that they had made changes in their practices as a result of the event when surveyed 45 days after having attended the program.

¹ COPD CME Grant Proposal July of 2008.