



Colorado Tools for Managing Respiratory Disease

The Office of Professional Education at National Jewish Health (NJH), an ACCME-accredited provider and the #1 respiratory hospital for 14 consecutive years, is collaborating with Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) on a multidisciplinary two-phase performance improvement continuing medical education (PI CME) program. This initiative is designed to improve the care of low-income asthma and COPD patients in the Denver metropolitan area by providing multidisciplinary training and support to primary care practices in an urban Denver provider network. The program's goals include providing evidence-based asthma and COPD diagnosis and treatment education, and providing education and activation of patients toward effective self-management of their illness.

This program is based on an identified practice gap and area of need, as well as on the outcomes from two previous National Jewish Health programs, *The Colorado Asthma Toolkit Program* and *Making the Right Diagnosis: The Need for Spirometry*. *The Toolkit* program was a three year multidisciplinary initiative that targeted 58 rural primary care offices in Colorado. *Making the Right Diagnosis* was a multi-tactical and multidisciplinary program which combined live spirometry trainings with online learning.

This program is a collaborative partnership with the Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization which provides medical and health education services to the underserved and indigent population in surrounding counties of Denver, CO. In 2009, MCPN provided health and medical related services to approximately 33,553 patients, which translates to over 240,000 visits to its community clinics. MCPN employs a multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and medical assistants. The income levels of 73% of MCPN patients are at or below poverty level, and more than half of the population is Hispanic. MCPN is currently preparing for a transition to the *Medical Home Model*.

This PI CME initiative, entitled “***Colorado Tools for Managing Respiratory Disease***,” is broken out into two years/phases. The first year focuses on asthma education, and includes a series of multidisciplinary trainings for each of the MCPN clinics, with the goal of increasing the capacity of urban primary care practices to assess and manage asthma as directed by current evidence-based guidelines. The second component of the asthma program helps providers to educate and support patients to increase medication adherence and effective self-management by providing the patient outreach “toolkit.” The materials in the toolkit are printed in both English and Spanish.

Phase II focuses on COPD and the same provider network. Following Phase I, learner feedback and educational outcomes are assessed and incorporated into Phase II educational interventions with the goal of applying lessons learned to improve program strategies.



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Performance Improvement (Level 5) educational outcomes will be evaluated using MCPN's Electronic Health Records system. Charts will be pulled and assessed by a third-party educational outcomes provider, Healthcare Research, Inc., and feedback will be provided to participants. As part of this feedback, recommendations will be provided for quality improvement. All data will be de-identified and HIPAA compliant. A complete outcomes report at the completion of each phase/year of the program will be submitted for publication. The measurements used for this study were developed with consideration of national performance measures from the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® and the National Committee for Quality Assurance.