



US Medical Assistance Program

Professional Education Resources for Asthma and Allergies

According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), Asthma and allergies are at epidemic proportions in America and is a significant public health concern. Asthma is a leading cause of activity limitation and costs our nation \$56 billion in health care costs annually.¹

Spring is considered by many to be the peak season for asthma and allergy sufferers so it seems appropriate that May is federally designated as Asthma Awareness Month. To help organizations celebrate Asthma Awareness Month, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a planning kit to help organizations increase public awareness of the Asthma epidemic. [Click here \(http://www.epa.gov/asthma/pdfs/awm/event_planning_kit.pdf\)](http://www.epa.gov/asthma/pdfs/awm/event_planning_kit.pdf) to access the planning kit which contains ideas and helpful tips for planning asthma awareness events.

To assist our partners in celebrating Asthma Awareness Month, AmeriCares prepared a compilation of patient and professional education resources related to Asthma and Allergies. Below are the professional education resources we identified after a thorough search of the Internet for tools that are appropriately comprehensive, user-friendly and practical for safety net providers. A similar list was compiled with patient education resources and is available at: (INSERT LINK)

¹Barnett SB, Nurmagambetov TA. Costs of Asthma in the United States: 2002-2007. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 2011; 127(1):145-52.

Free for Download

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

- Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma (<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/asthgdln.pdf>) was developed by an expert panel commissioned by the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) Coordinating Committee (CC).
- Asthma Care Quick Reference: Diagnosing and Managing Asthma (http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/asthma_qrg.pdf) A reference guide to help clinicians provide quality care to people who have asthma.
- National Asthma Control Initiative Program Summary (<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/lung/asthma/naci/pubs/naci-factsheet.pdf>). Designed to bring the asthma care that patients receive in line with evidence-based recommendations from two reports published by the NAEPP: the Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR-3) and its companion Guidelines Implementation Panel (GIP).

Health Team Works

- Health Team Works provides evidence-based guidelines on the treatment of Asthma for professional in primary care, with the goal to optimize health, improve quality and safety, reduce costs and improve the care experience for patients and their healthcare team. Their website (<http://www.healthteamworks.org/guidelines/asthma.html>) provides links to Asthma Guidelines and related links.

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

- Asthma Management and Education Online Program – An Interactive Resource for Allied Health Care Professionals (http://www.aafa.org/pdfs/AAE_Poster_FINAL.pdf) This interactive web-based course structured around the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute’s “Four Components of Asthma Management” prepares allied health (AH) professionals to deliver comprehensive asthma management and education to patients. Target audience includes: Allied health professionals, including respiratory therapists (RT) and nurses in school, public health, and primary care settings who provide asthma care and education to patients. Continuing Education Credit is available for some audiences.

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI)

- Practice Parameters/Guidelines for Asthma and Allergies (<http://www.aaaai.org/practice-resources/Statements-and-Practice-Parameters/Practice-parameters-and-other-guidelines-page.aspx>) The current practice parameters are designed to assist clinicians in providing high quality assessment and treatment that is consistent with the best available scientific evidence and clinical consensus.
- Signs, Posters and Tips to Remember on Asthma (<http://www.aaaai.org/conditions-and-treatments/library/asthma-library.aspx>) A series on a variety of topics clinicians can discuss with their patients. Available in English and Spanish.
- Signs, Posters and Tips to Remember on Allergy (<http://www.aaaai.org/conditions-and-treatments/library/allergy-library.aspx>) A series on a variety of topics clinicians can discuss with their patients. Available in English and Spanish.
- Summary of New Food Allergy Guidelines for Primary Care Physicians (2012) (<http://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Practice%20Resources/Food-Allergy-Guidelines-Summary.pdf>)
- National Allergy Bureau (<http://www.aaaai.org/global/nab-pollen-counts.aspx>) A resource for accurate allergy and mold levels across the US.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- The CDC portal (<http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/>) provides a comprehensive list of resources and links to information on CDC Initiatives related to Asthma
- Trends in Asthma Prevalence, Health Care Use, and Mortality in the United States, 2001–2010 (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db94.pdf>) National Center for Health Statistics Data Brief – No. 94 – 2012
- Workplace Safety and Health Topics on Asthma and Allergies (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/asthma/>) is a review by the CDC and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of work related agents that can cause allergic reactions and asthma in the work place
- Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities (http://www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce/actionplan_one_pager.pdf) highlights the key points in the action plan.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

- Ongoing Studies: Allergy and Asthma (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/clinical/join/studies/index.cfm>) A summary of the various asthma research programs at NIEHS designed to develop strategies for prevention and intervention, assess the exposure to indoor allergens and study the genetics and pathogenesis of asthma

Environmental Protection Agency

- EPA's resource page (<http://www.epa.gov/asthma/hcprofessionals.html>) on Asthma provides a variety of tools that health care professionals and people with asthma can use to manage their asthma.
- Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma: Guidelines for Health Care Providers (<http://www.neefusa.org/health/asthma/astmaguidelines.htm>) are aimed at integrating environmental management of asthma into pediatric health care.
- Free EPA sponsored Asthma webinars (<http://www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/webinars>) present the latest knowledge and information from leading experts and asthma management program champions from across the country.
- Asthma Community Network (<http://www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/>) provides information on the EPA's community-based initiative to increase awareness of Asthma nationwide using a variety of media delivery tools. Free membership sign up is required to access some of the information.

American Lung Association

- *Asthma Basics* (<http://www.lung.org/lung-disease/asthma/learning-more-about-asthma/asthma-basics.html>) is a 50-minute online learning module for healthcare professionals and anyone with asthma or caring for someone with Asthma.
- American Lung Association's Health Care Professional site (<http://www.lung.org/lung-disease/asthma/for-health-professionals-and-volunteers/>) provides strategies for treating asthma, data and statistics, and access to additional educational programs.
- State of Lung Disease in Diverse Populations Booklet (http://www.lung.org/assets/documents/publications/lung-disease-data/solddc_2010.pdf) provides statistics, background material and ongoing research related to a variety of lung health issues including a section on asthma.

88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902

(203) 658-9690

USPartnerships@americares.org

www.americares.org