Are Health Care Providers in Rural Kansas Following Recommended Asthma Treatment Guidelines as Published by the NHLBI?

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Introduction

Asthma represents a disease with significant morbidity and mortality in Kansas. According to the NHLBI, estimated that 8.6% of adults and 11.3% of children have asthma. It represents a significant healthcare burden and economic cost. In 2011, 10,174 patients with asthma were identified from a random sample of 2015 Kansas Medicaid patients, representing about 10% of the state's population. It is estimated that 8.4% of adults and 11.3% of children have asthma. It represents a significant healthcare burden and economic cost. In 2011, 10,174 patients with asthma were identified from a random sample of 2015 Kansas Medicaid patients, representing about 10% of the state's population.

Results

The overall self-reported estimated prevalence of asthma in the uncontrolled sample was consistent with prevalence in the state (11.3%). About 95% of patients with asthma. Individual physicians. In preparation for an intervention strategy, we surveyed rural primary care providers about the self-reported confidence level with several factors surrounding asthma treatment and management.

Methods

Medical students enrolled in the Summer Rural Research and Clinical Practice elective interviewed 63 physicians, nurses, physician’s assistants and nurse practitioners in rural practices about prevalence of asthma in their practice, frequency of using spirometry, ICS and AAP and confidence with treating asthma. Students then entered the responses in a RedCap firewall protected database. All protocols were approved by the HSC. A de-identified spreadsheet was downloaded for analysis. Four surveys had incomplete data and were not used.

Conclusions and Discussion

- Many providers reported decreased confidence with various aspects of asthma treatment.
- This decreased confidence was found to correlate with a reported decrease percent of time that the related asthma guidelines were used.
- Spirometry use and asthma action plan use are areas that providers report both lower confidence and usage.
- Intervention design will emphasize:
  - Using spirometry
  - Developing an Asthma Action Plan
  - Improving overall knowledge
- It is our hope that this will improve overall confidence and translate into better adherence to guidelines, subsequently create a positive impact on the morbidity and mortality of asthma in Kansas.