

APPENDIX C - Glossary

The words or phrases listed below are defined as they are used in the state plan.

Allergens – Substances that set off an allergic reaction such as pollen, dust mites, animal dander, and some medications.

Asthma action plan – A document that outlines the treatment approach for an individual asthma patient; developed in consultation with the health care provider, family members and caregivers. Effective action plans help patients control their asthma and live healthy active lives.

Asthma attack – Also called exacerbation or episode, an asthma attack occurs when the muscles surrounding an asthmatic's airway are constricting causing difficulty breathing.

Asthma self-management – Provided with the necessary information, tools, resources, therapeutic regimen, and asthma care plan, the ability for an individual to exercise their knowledge of their condition and acquired skills to effectively monitor, make decisions, and implement appropriate measures regarding their asthma care, including when to seek further medical attention.

Asthmagens – Agents in the workplace that may trigger or worsen asthma symptoms. These include triggers, sensitizers, or irritants.

Certified asthma educator (AE-C) – A certified asthma educator is a credentialed health care professional who has expertise and skills to educate patients about their asthma. This expertise and skills are verified through a national certification exam that became available in October 2002. Only after successful completion of this national certification exam can a health care professional call themselves a "certified asthma educator."

Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) – A mixture of smoke from the burning end of a cigarette, pipe, or cigar and smoke exhaled by the smoker (also secondhand smoke (SHS) or passive smoking).

Environmentally preferable products – Products that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared to competing products that serve the same purpose.

Health and safety staff – Any staff person who is responsible for developing and implementing health & safety programs.

Health care professional (HCP) – Licensed and highly trained medical professions such as physicians, certified nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physician assistants and nurses. Provide medical services in the areas of prevention, treatment, and management of illness.

Health plans – Health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, community integrated service networks, insured plans and other plans that cover health care services.

Hierarchy of controls – An approach used to determine feasible and effective exposure control solutions. A common representation of the hierarchy is: elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment. Control methods at the top (elimination) are potentially more effective and protective than those at the bottom (personal protective equipment) and should be used first whenever possible.

Inhaled Corticosteroid (ICS) – the most potent and effective inhaled anti-inflammatory agent currently available. Inhaled form is used as a controller medicine for the long-term control of asthma.

Irritants – Inhaled substances in the environment such as diesel exhaust, perfume, ETS and tobacco smoke that may cause an asthma exacerbation (attack).

Licensed School Nurse (LSN) – a registered nurse with public health certification and licensure by the Minnesota Board of Teaching to practice professional school nursing.

Model Partnership – A relationship between two organizations identified by the WRA Advisory work group to serve as a demonstration of an innovative approach to address WRA for future interventions.

NAEPP – National Asthma Education Prevention Program is a program within the NIH (National Institutes of Health) under the NHLBI (National Heart Lung & Blood Institute). The NAEPP convened 3 separate expert panels from across the United States to review evidence based programs and make specific recommendations for asthma guidelines. The result is “Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma”, currently being revised for release in 2007.

New-Onset Asthma - Asthma that develops after exposure to sensitizers or irritants in the workplace.

OSHA Consultation Alliances – Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation Program provides consultation services to help employers prevent accidents and diseases through several employer-assistance programs. OSHA Consultation establishes partnerships with organizations committed to workplace safety and health to prevent injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Workplace Safety Consultation and its allies work together to reach out to, educate, and lead Minnesota employers and their employees in improving and advancing workplace safety and health.

Physician Asthma Care Education (PACE) – A multifaceted training program to improve physician awareness, attitudes, ability, and application of communication and therapeutic skills for asthma.

Potential Partners – Organizations identified by the work groups that should be involved in the implementation of the strategic plan for addressing asthma throughout the state.

Rescue medication – Typically albuterol or pirbuterol, this medication is inhaled when a person with asthma is having an asthma exacerbation (attack). The medication relaxes the muscles surrounding the airways.

Respiratory Therapist - RT, RRT, CRT - are specialists in airway management, mechanical ventilation, blood acid/base balance, and critical care medicine. RTs work closely with other medical disciplines.

State Profile for Environment – A document reviewing information on Minnesota asthma surveillance data, reviewing exposure research on environmental triggers in Minnesota, and evaluating outreach and intervention activities conducted in other states to specifically address risk factors and triggers associated with Minnesota’s environment to guide strategic plan activities (see Goal #2, Objective A).

State Profile for Work-Related Asthma – A document reviewing information on business, industry, and agriculture and worker health in Minnesota specifically addressing risk factors and asthmagens associated with work-related asthma to guide strategic plan activities (see Goal #3, Objective E).

Trigger – A substance or environmental condition that causes asthma symptoms or allergy symptoms to appear.

Twin Cities metropolitan area – Includes the 7 counties of Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington.

Wheezing – A high pitch whistling noise in the chest.

Work-Aggravated Asthma - Preexisting asthma exacerbated by workplace exposures.

Work-related asthma – Asthma that develops after exposure to sensitizers or irritants in the workplace (new-onset asthma) or aggravated (work-aggravated asthma) by exposures in the workplace.
official views of the CDC.