Breathing Space

Respiratory Disease Newsletter

Minnesota Department of Health
Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Division
Chronic Disease & Environmental Epidemiology Section

Volume 6, Number 3  September 2008

Coach’s Asthma Clipboard Program in New York

The National Lt. Governors Association (NLGA) has made asthma a focus of its work since 2007, and Minnesota’s Lt. Governor, Carol Molnau, serves on the NLGA advisory group to promote the Coach’s Asthma Clipboard Program in other states. In July Lt. Governor Molnau attended the Annual NLGA Meeting in Buffalo, NY. She spoke at a press conference announcing that New York was one of the states joining the program, found at: [www.WinningWithAsthma.org](http://www.WinningWithAsthma.org). This online program provides information on asthma symptom awareness, on-field/on-court asthma management, and asthma episode response actions.

The program was developed by MDH and the Utah Department of Health in response to coaches who realized that their athletes with asthma could perform even better if this disease was properly managed. Professional coaches from the Minnesota Vikings, the Minnesota Wild, and the Minnesota Lynx appear in the program with messages about the importance of coaches knowing about asthma.

Minnesota coaches who complete the program receive a free clipboard with information on what to do during an asthma attack, a booklet with asthma information, and other helpful material.

Other states promoting the program are Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

Kudos to Carole Westby, LSN

Carole was the first school nurse to return her Outcomes Report from the Asthma School Nurse project! This summer she helped create Asthma Action Plans (AAPs) for 16 children in the Alexandria area who had never before had written AAPs!
Medication News*

Asmanex® Approval – The FDA has approved a once-daily inhaled corticosteroid - Asmanex Twisthaler® 110 mcg (mometasone furoate inhalation powder) for children ages 4 to 11. Indicated for the maintenance treatment of asthma as a preventative therapy, this dry powder inhaler is also available in 220 mcg for people age 12 and older.

Alvesco® Approval – The FDA has approved Alvesco HFA® (Ciclesonide Inhalation Aerosol in the USA for the maintenance treatment of asthma as preventative therapy for people ages 12 and older. Alvesco is an inhaled corticosteroid used to treat airway inflammation. It will be marketed by Sepracor inc. and should be available later in 2008.

*excerpts from Allergy & Asthma Today, Vol. 6. Issue 1

ATTENTION: Certified Asthma Educators

If you’re a Certified Asthma Educator (AE-C), you play a key role in managing asthma in Minnesota! Please go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=c8yT5hjr4_2bDFHwn_2bJmsbPg_3d_3d and complete a short online survey for Minnesota AE-Cs. We hope to gather information on how we might best support and assist you in the important work that you do.

Also, a list serve for Minnesota’s Certified Asthma Educators may be established. If you’d like to be contacted when this occurs, please send your e-mail address with the message, “Please contact me about the AE-C list serve to Janis.Smith@state.mn.us or provide your e-mail address when you complete the survey. Please share this information with any Certified Asthma Educators you know who may not receive this newsletter!! Thanks!

Get Protected During the 2008-2009 Flu Season!

Now is the time of year to begin planning to keep your family safe during the upcoming flu season, especially those who have asthma. Don’t forget flu vaccinations to ensure protection from this illness.

Asthma Self-Management Education in Minnesota

A key component of asthma care is self-management education. According to the national guidelines for the diagnosis and management of asthma (National Asthma Education and Prevention Program, Expert Panel Report 3), this involves teaching persons with asthma how to monitor their level of asthma control, take medication correctly (e.g., inhaler technique), and avoid environmental triggers, as well as developing a written asthma action plan.

The table below shows the percentage of Minnesota and U.S. adults with asthma who report having received asthma self-management education. Approximately one-third of Minnesota adults with asthma report having ever received an asthma action plan. Less than two-thirds have been taught to recognize the early signs of an asthma attack. The percentages for Minnesota adults are higher than the national average for every measure except asthma management classes. However there is still room for improvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ever had an asthma management plan</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taught to recognize early signs of an asthma attack</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taught how to respond to an asthma attack</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
<td>64.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taught how to monitor peak flow</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taken a class on asthma management</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
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More Information can be found at the following address: [http://www.chestnet.org/CH/program/asthmaCoalition.php](http://www.chestnet.org/CH/program/asthmaCoalition.php)

**Discussion topics will include:**
- Asthma in American Cities project
- Environmental Tobacco Smoke: How To Reduce Exposure
- Developing State Plans and Coalitions for COPD
- How To Reach Local Media

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**Tribal Healthy Homes IAQ Demonstration Project**

The American Lung Association (ALA) of the Upper Midwest received a three-year grant from the US Department Housing and Urban Development to address indoor air quality (IAQ) problems in tribal homes in northern Minnesota. The three tribal partners are Leech Lake, Bois Forte and Grand Portage. Asthma is an important part of the ALA demonstration project because the percentage of tribal members with asthma is significantly higher than the state-wide percentages for children and adults.

The ALA Project includes training tribal staff on indoor air quality including environmental triggers of asthma and to provide IAQ assessments and interventions in over 100 homes. A significant outcome of the project is providing tribal staff with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out and sustain much of the IAQ assessment and remediation work with their own resources.

Collie Graddick with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Laura Oatman with the MDH Asthma Program provided training to staff from the three tribes during July and August 2008. Collie’s presentation focused on household pest management strategies. All attendees received a free integrated pest management (IPM) kit. IPM looks at pest problems using a multi-tactic approach including the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pests with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

Laura’s presentation covered the connection between health and the indoor environment with an emphasis on five environmental triggers below of asthma – dust mites, mold & moisture, pests, pets and secondhand smoke. Information on the effectiveness of common environmental interventions was also provided.
Asthma Educator Institute 2008

The American Lung Association of Minnesota (ALAMN) Asthma Educator Certificate Course is a two-day workshop for individuals wanting to improve their ability to provide asthma education for patients and families with asthma. It is expected that many of these individuals will go on to take the certified asthma educator exam offered by NAECB and become certified asthma educators.

Who:  This workshop is designed for nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, physicians, and other credentialed professionals that have experience working with patients with asthma.

When:  November 5 & 6, 2008

Where:  American Lung Association of Minnesota, 490 Concordia Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103
   651-227-8014

•  Registration - $250 Before October 23, 2008
•  Registration - $275 On or After October 23, 2008

Information About The Asthma Educator Institute

A certified asthma educator (AE-C) is someone that qualifies for and passes the exam developed and administered by the National Asthma Certification Board (NAECB). The first exam for national certification of asthma educators was administered in September 2002. It is delivered via computer at over 110 locations throughout the US. Candidates are tested on recall, application, and analysis of four main content areas via 175 items (150 scored items, 25 pretest items).

The following currently licensed or credentialed health care professionals may be admitted to the examination: physicians (MD, DO), physician assistants (PA-C), nurses (RN, LPN), respiratory therapists (RRT, CRT), pulmonary function technologists (CPFT, RPFT), pharmacists (RPh), social workers (CSW), and health educators (CHES). In addition, individuals providing asthma education, counseling, or coordinating services with a minimum of 1000 hours experience in these activities will also be admitted to the exam. For information about eligibility, fees, and registration for the exam, please visit www.naecb.org.

It is anticipated that as asthma education becomes standardized through this process of national certification, third party reimbursement for asthma education will become more available. The NAECB is working to get CPT codes for asthma education approved.

What is the ALAMN Educator Institute?
The ALAMN Asthma Educator Institute is a two-day workshop for individuals wanting to improve their ability to provide asthma education for patients and families with asthma. It is expected that many of these individuals will go on to take the certified asthma educator exam offered by NAECB and become AE-Cs.

Benefits of the Asthma Educator Institute
Education for patients, their families, and health care providers is a crucial part of good asthma control. The ALA course content is based on the NAECB exam matrix and the National Heart Lung & Blood Institute Guidelines for Management of Asthma.

Course Description
By attending this course, you will:

•  Learn current NHLBI guidelines, which will help you provide better patient care and improve treatment outcomes.
• Enhance your skills with dry powdered inhalers, metered dose inhalers, spacers and peak flow meters.
• Interact with experts in asthma and education.
• Be a step ahead in qualifying to provide reimbursable services as efforts move forward in obtaining insurance reimbursement for asthma education.
• Receive continuing education credits.

Registration Deadline
Registrations are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Full payment must be received with your registration.

Online Registration  |  Mail/Fax Registration Form

Cancellation Policy
Registration fee refundable, less a $25 processing fee, prior to October 24, 2007. No refunds after October 23, 2008. Substitutions are permitted. Confirmations will e-mailed.

Clinical Asthma Education Flipchart
A new clinical asthma education resource is now available from the ALA of the Upper Midwest. The "Controlling Asthma: What you need to know" flipchart is perfect for providing comprehensive, coordinated education to patients with asthma and their families. All ages of patients with asthma, from a variety of racial/ethnic backgrounds, are shown throughout the resource. Tips to apply to the patient's daily life, camera-ready take home materials, and guidance for appropriate and legal asthma services coding are also included. This education tool will be available to you for $100 if you purchase it with your registration or during the Asthma Educator Certificate Course. For those who purchase, the resource will be given to you on the second day of the course. Click here: for more information on the Flipchart.

Continuing Education Credits
This Asthma Educator Institute is designed to meet continuing education requirements for a variety of health care professionals. Presenter objectives, qualifications, and a certificate of attendance will be available for nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists and others desiring CEU credits. The activity was designed to meet the needs of the Minnesota Board of Nursing continuing education requirements for 15.9 contact hours. It is the licensee's responsibility to determine whether a current nursing certificate, a continuing education activity, or a professional activity meets the continuing education requirements.

Attire: Please dress comfortably. Professional casual is welcome. Since conference rooms can vary in temperature, you may want to dress in layers.

For registration questions contact Jonathan Oney at 651-268-7598 or heather.steffens@alamn.org
For course content questions contact Cheryl Sasse at 651-223-9565 or cheryl.sasse@alamn.org

ALAMN Providing Free Group Asthma Education

As of June 2, 2008, ALAMN has been approved as a provider of asthma education for Medica Health Plans. ALAMN will be providing FREE group asthma education sessions to all patients and their families, regardless of their health insurance plan. Please inform your patients of these helpful sessions. No doctor's order is needed!

ALAMN will provide both a pediatric-focused session on the 4th Thursday of every month starting on September 25, 2008, and adult-focused educational sessions on the 3rd Thursday of every other month starting on October 16, 2008. These educational sessions will be 90 minutes long and will begin at 5:30 PM. A light dinner will be provided to those that attend.

Patients are invited to learn about:
☐ What is asthma?
☐ How to recognize...
  - Early warning signs
  - Symptoms
☐ Triggers
☐ Medications
  - Controllers vs. Relievers
☐ Prevention

Registration is required. To register please contact: Janelle Rainey at 651-223-9567.

For more information please contact Heather Steffens at 651-268-7587 or Heather.Steffens@alamn.org
**Event Highlights:**
The Metro MAC is in full swing, kicking off this fall with a coalition meeting held September 8. The Metro MAC would like to warmly welcome Colleen Dobie, RN, CPNP, AE-C, as co-chair! Colleen lives and works with asthma every day and has a wealth of knowledge and experience to help lead our coalition. She joins Dr. Pramod Kelkar, co-chair. We look forward to your leadership!

Current coalition initiatives include: 1) Increasing the visibility of Certified Asthma Educators (AE-C) as important partners in asthma care to health professionals and the public, and 2) Assisting school districts in the implementation of the Healthy Learner Model for Asthma Management adapted from the Saint Paul Public Schools.

The Metro MAC has produced a beautiful brochure called “Is Your Asthma Well Controlled?” which emphasizes the need for asthma control and the importance of asthma education. The Certified Asthma Educator is highlighted as an important partner in providing asthma education. The brochure is in Word format and can be adapted to include your practice setting's contact information, a map and picture. Please contact Stephanie if you would like a copy of the brochure.

In an effort to assist implementation of the Healthy Learner Model for Asthma Management, the Metro MAC provided an asthma presentation to 40 South Washington County Public Schools’ health office staff on August 18 in Cottage Grove.

Twenty three Anoka-Hennepin school district teachers were taught about asthma, signs and symptoms, triggers and what to do for a student who is experiencing an asthma episode during their “Summer Institute” at Andover High School. They also learned the “rules of twos” to determine if a child’s asthma is not in good control and to refer students to the school nurse.

On August 9, the Metro MAC partnered with Smoke-Free Dakota County during the Dakota County State Fair in Farmington by providing asthma and no-smoking materials and prizes for their booth, reaching about 30 people on the last day of the fair.

On September 15, 2008: “Asthma 101: What You Need to Know” was presented to middle-school teachers in Stillwater.

**Upcoming Events:**
September 23, 2008: “Caring for Kids with Asthma” presentation to Dakota County licensed foster care providers in Apple Valley from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

October 16-17, 2008: A display at the School Nurse of Minnesota (SNOM) Conference, Minnetonka.

October 20, 2008: Cultural Disparities Workshop: Panel speaker and display table at the East YMCA in Saint Paul, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to learn more about the Metro MAC, please e-mail Stephanie at stephanie.kimmes@alamn.org.
**Southwest Regional Asthma Coalition (SWRAC)**

**Event Highlights:**
Welcome to our new members: Maureen Ricard, Roxanne Erickson, and Polly Samardich. We are excited to have you a part of our team!

Amy Roggenbuck has regretfully resigned her position as SWRAC Coordinator after 4 1/2 years. She has had a wonderful time working with everyone in the Southwest as well as Statewide. She plans to continue to be a member of the SWRAC and looks forward to future activities.

If anyone is interested in applying for the Coordinator position, please contact Kristi VanRiper from the American Lung Association of MN at 651-268-7601 or kristi.vanriper@alamn.org.

**Upcoming Events:**
Dr. Amy Ellingson will be presenting an Asthma Management Update to clinic staff in Olivia in September. Thank you to Dr. Ellingson for all the work she has done in this area!

Coalition members are planning to send a letter to all School Districts in the region to remind them of the State Law that allows students to carry their inhalers with them at all times in case of an asthma attack. They hope to create more awareness in schools so that students have access to their rescue medication. 

LOOKING for new members!

If you have an interest in the topic of asthma and would like to help others, then the Southwest Regional Asthma Coalition is the group to join! We are on the lookout for new members to join our group and offer some fresh ideas.

If you have any questions or would like more details regarding any future SWRAC events, please contact Kristi VanRiper from the American Lung Association of MN at 651-268-7601 or kristi.vanriper@alamn.org.

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**West Central Regional Asthma Coalition (WCRAC)**

Keely Hyland is the new MAC Coordinator for West Central Minnesota (WCRAC). Keely has a Community Health Education Degree from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. After graduation, she took a job with Clay County Public Health as a Health Educator, working on the Communities for Healthy Air project, which was working on secondhand smoke policies. After the Freedom to Breathe Act was passed in 2007, she started working on implementation of the new law. In addition to this project, she is now also starting work on a new project titled Active Living Minnesota.

**Event Highlights:**
On June 25, The WCRAC held a meeting at the Lake Region Hospital in Fergus Falls which was also available via teleconference.

**Upcoming Events:**
The next West Central Regional Coalition meeting will be Wednesday, September 24, at 10 a.m. at the Lake Region Hospital in Fergus Falls. This meeting will also be available via teleconference. For more information contact Keely Hyland at 218-299-7180 or keely.hyland@co.clay.mn.us.

If you are interested in future events in the West Central Region or are interested in joining the coalition, please contact Keely Hyland at 218-299-7180 or keely.hyland@co.clay.mn.us.

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**Northeast Regional Asthma Coalition (NERAC)**

**Event Highlights:**
It was a busy summer for the Northeast Regional Asthma Coalition (NERAC). Members participated in events held by local smoke-free coalitions including Carlton County’s First Anniversary celebration of their local smoke free ordinance (June 1, 2008) with bowling and refreshments at Southgate Bowl in Cloquet. Nearly 100 people turned out to show
support and appreciation for the opportunity to “Play Tobacco Free”.

Another event was “Fresh Air Night with the Huskies”, with over 2000 local supporters from the Arrowhead region attending a Duluth Huskies baseball game. This event was highlighted by Representative Huntley (sponsor of the Freedom to Breathe legislation in the MN House) throwing the first ceremonial pitch to St. Louis County Commissioner Steve O’Neil. Thousands cheered on the Huskies as they celebrated the smoke free air. The Wade Stadium even eliminated their outdoor designated smoking area for the night and asked the team to refrain from any spit tobacco use!

In July and August, the coalition submitted articles to local papers with education on exercise with asthma and also helpful information for going back to school with asthma. Promotion continues for the Coaches’ Clipboard program. Check out www.WinningWithAsthma.org to join us in spreading the word about this worthwhile educational event designed especially for coaches.

Finally, ALA’s Camp-We-No-Wheeze North was held August 3-6 at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, MN. Our coalition members make this camp possible by volunteering for camp -- serving on the planning committee and as medical staff.

Educational opportunities for caregivers and parents are planned in our region for this fall and early winter, dates to be determined. Call Jan at (218) 726-4721 if interested.

For more information contact Jan Salo Korby, NERAC Coordinator at 218-726-4721 or jan.salo.korby@alamn.org

Alicia Bauman is the new MAC Coordinator for Central Minnesota. She has a variety of experiences organizing volunteers and leading coalitions. Most recently, she coordinated the Smoke Free Communities coalition based out of the Central Minnesota Heart Center. Alicia believes in the power and strength coalitions can bring to communities to achieve the greatest impact on important issues.

Alicia is excited to bring her passion of coalition building and community outreach to the Central Minnesota Asthma Coalition.

**Upcoming Events:**
Saturday, September 20, 2008:
Abbott Northwestern
5k/1k Walk/Run for Asthma

Registration is $15 and can be accepted on race day. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at Abbott Northwestern’s Sartell Outpatient Center (across from Hennen’s Furniture).

Please consider participating in the Abbott Northwestern Health Harvest 5k/1k Run/Walk for Asthma. Proceeds will support the work of the Central Minnesota Regional Asthma Coalition.

For more information contact Alicia Bauman at 320-309-7359 or CentralMNAsthmaCoalition@gmail.com
Leslie Witte is the new MAC Coordinator for Northwestern Minnesota. She has worked for Clay County Public Health for 7 years as the county Child and Teen Checkup (C&TC) Coordinator. Five years ago she organized the Northwest counties to form the Northwest Minnesota C&TC Collaborative, which discusses many of the health issues in the Northwest region, including asthma. Leslie looks forward to re-energizing and working with MAC in Northwest Minnesota!

**Event Highlights:**
Keely Hyland, MAC Coordinator from West Central Minnesota and Leslie worked together at the Moorhead River Festival on August 12. They gave out information about asthma and had a game that people could play testing their knowledge of asthma. They made over 150 contacts that evening - with 27 stating that either they or someone they knew has asthma. Some participants expressed interest in being coalition members.

On Friday, August 22, Linda Andvik, PHN, Clay County Public Health conducted a workshop for Clay/Wilkin Head Start staff on asthma. Thirty staff attended the workshop on asthma med management and distribution to children. Clay Wilkin Head Start has 270 children enrolled this year and 13 of those children used inhalers for asthma or allergies.

For more information contact Leslie Witte at 218-299-7178 or leslie.witte@co.clay.mn.us

Erin Simmons returned as the South Central MAC Coordinator as of September 1, 2008. Erin has been with the American Lung Association since 2004.

The South Central MAC goal for the upcoming months will be to rebuild the South Central Region and to schedule events for the year to come.

For more information on the South Central Asthma Coalition or upcoming events please contact Erin at 507-381-8257 or erin.simmons@alamn.org

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**Upcoming ALAMN Asthma-related programs/courses:**

Wednesday, October 22, Asthma Update, location ALAMN, 7:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. For more information contact Heather Steffens, RRT, AE-C at 651-268-7587 or heather.steffens@alamn.org.

Thursday, October 23, Implementation and Interpretation of Spirometry in the Primary Care Practice full day at ALAMN. For more information contact Kristi Van Riper at 651-268-7601 or Kristi.vanriper@alamn.org.

November 2008 (date to be announced) Minnesota’s 3rd COPD Summit. For more information contact Jill Heins at 651-223-9578 or Jill.heins@alamn.org.

There will be a COPD Educator's Course in early December 2008 (date to be announced). For more information contact Cheryl Sasse at 651-268-7598 or Cheryl.sasse@alamn.org.
BREATHING SPACE

For more information, or to request this material in another format call the Minnesota Asthma Program at:
651-201-5909
MN Relay Service TDD
1-800-627-3528

To receive this newsletter electronically, go to:
http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/cdee/asthma/Newsletter.html
and click on Subscribe to Breathing Space.

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Certified Asthma Educators!!

Please go to: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=c8yT5hjr4_2bDFHwn_2bJmsbPg_3d_3d
and complete the short online survey. Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE: All MDH staff e-mail addresses have changed and no longer contain the work “health”.

BREATHING SPACE, a quarterly respiratory disease newsletter, is produced by the Minnesota Department of Health Asthma Program. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide health professionals, school nurses, and community members with current research, information, and resources on respiratory disease.

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Questions about lung health?
Call 1-800-548-8252
American Lung Association Call Center

MDH Asthma Staff Contact Information:
Asthma Program Telephone Number: 651-201-5909
Toll Free Number: 1-877-925-4189
Asthma Web Site: http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/

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