Inpatient Asthma Pathways-
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
An Asthma Patient’s Road to
Home

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Patient Education

- Education for the asthma patient must start on admission.
- Upon admission the parent/patient are given a brief review of the asthma pathway used at CHOP (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia).
- They are informed of the asthma parent class that is held daily at 11am.

Patient Education

- The class date and time are written on the communication board in the patient’s room.
- The road to home poster is located at the patient’s bedside and reviewed with the parent upon admission.
The Asthma Pathway (there are three levels of care)

- Severe - the patient is on continuous albuterol through an aerosol mask. Vital signs and assessments are done on an hourly basis. Assessments and vital signs are shared between the nurse and respiratory therapist. The patient is connected to a cardiac monitor and a pulse oximeter. These patients are managed on an inpatient unit.

The Asthma Pathway

- Moderate - the patient is receiving albuterol treatments via a metered dose inhaler with a spacer every 2 hours. Vital signs and assessments are done every 2 hours with the delivery of albuterol. The respiratory therapist completes the assessments and vital signs and the nurse assesses the patient as needed.
The Asthma Pathway

- Mild- the patient is receiving albuterol treatments via a metered dose inhaler with a spacer every 4 hours. Vital signs and assessments are done every 4 hours with the delivery of albuterol. The respiratory therapist completes the assessments and vital signs and the nurse assesses the patient as needed.

The Asthma Parent Class

- The class that is held on a daily basis is taught by respiratory, nursing or pharmacy staff.
- It is held daily at 11am seven days a week
- It is held in the same classroom every day
- All patients/parents with asthma are encouraged to attend the class every time they are in the hospital.
The Asthma Parent Class

- We have a script we use to teach the class so everyone is able to teach the same information.
- Staff is encouraged to read the script, attend the class to watch, then teach the class with one of the core educators before they teach the class alone.

The Asthma Parent Class

- The classroom has a T.V. available for the families to view a channel that has a continuous video running about asthma and children. They can view this while waiting for all families to settle in to the classroom. This channel is also available in their child’s room.
The Asthma Parent Class

What is asthma
Triggers and their removal
Warning signs
Medications-actions of control and rescue meds, side effects, the five day course of steroids.

Use of devices
Asthma Care Plan
School- when to go, when to stay home, availability of medications
Sports- sports are encouraged

Discharge Needs

- All patients need asthma teaching either classroom or bedside
- All patients receive an asthma care plan
- All patients need to have a follow up appointment with the PMD
- A case manager and/or social worker assigned to the patient will assist with discharge as needed
- All patients receive a flu shot as needed
What to Expect at Home

- Albuterol treatments every 4 hours
- Use of any controller medications
- Oral steroids
- Begin to use the asthma care plan
- Return to school the day after discharge.
- Follow up with primary care provider