

# Evaluation of Barriers and Suggestions for Improvement for Asthma Action Plan (AAP) Completion Rate by UW Health General Pediatric and Adolescent (GPAM) Physicians

## **Aims/Hypothesis:**

Asthma is the most common chronic disease for children. It has high medical costs and negative effects on patient health and daily living. Asthma Action Plans (AAP) are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics to improve asthma control and decrease negative outcomes. The UW Health GPAM department developed clinic workflows to increase AAP delivery to patients in 2016, leading to an AAP completion rate of 77% in June 2018. Since then, there has been a steady decline in completion rate. To improve AAP completion rate, an EPIC Best Practice Alert (BPA) launched 2/26/19. An alert appears for any EPIC visit when AAP is over 1 year old for a pediatric asthma patient to prompt staff and providers to complete an AAP. Despite the BPA, the GPAM AAP completion rate decreased from 68% (February 2019) to 64% (August 2019). As pilot work for this grant, we evaluated the AAP rate across clinics. Interestingly, there is significant variability across GPAM clinics, with AAP completion rates ranging from 56%-83%. Factors contributing to low and declining AAP completion rates are not clear. The purpose of this study is to understand GPAM physicians' perceptions of barriers for GPAM AAP completion rate and suggestions for improvement

**Specific Aim:** Identify GPAM physicians' perceived barriers and suggestions to improve AAP completion rate

**Subaim:** Understand differences by clinic

## **Research Design/Methods:**

This mixed method study will consist of two steps: interviews followed by a survey of GPAM physicians. The IRB is in process.

### **Step 1: Interview**

- Procedure: GPAM undergraduate research interns will conduct qualitative interviews with one GPAM physician from each of the GPAM clinic sites (n=7) lasting 30-40 minutes.
- Measures: Qualitative interview scripts will include open-ended questions to identify perceptions of barriers and suggestions for improvement for AAP completion rate
- Recruitment/selections: One GPAM physician with low AAP completion rate from each clinic

### **Step 2: Survey**

- Procedure: A Qualtrics (online survey platform) survey will be sent by email to all GPAM physicians (n=35). It is expected that the survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete the survey.
- Measures: The survey will be developed based on common items generated from the interviews. Survey items will evaluate the experiences that physicians have with these barriers and their support for proposed improvements of the GPAM AAP completion rate using Likert scales. We will also include a free text box after each area for comments. Demographics will include clinic site. In order to avoid identification of particular physicians, we will not ask age, gender or other identifiers.
- Recruitment: We will recruit all GPAM physicians (n=35)

### **Analysis:**

- For step 1, we will categorize responses and look for common responses as well as themes.
- For step 2, we will use descriptive statistics and also compare by clinic.

## **Projected Results:**

The survey results from all GPAM physicians will identify commonly endorsed or critical perceived barriers and suggestions for improvement for GPAM AAP completion rate. We will use these results to identify group and clinic site interventions.

## **Dissemination/Future Directions:**

The survey results from all GPAM physicians identifying commonly endorsed or critically perceived barriers, suggestions for improvement for GPAM AAP completion rates and options for group and site interventions will be presented to the GPAM division as well as nationally at the Pediatric Academic Societies 2021. We will use the findings to guide targeted interventions to improve overall GPAM AAP completion rate to 75% and clinic rate by 20%. Future plans include a grant to test interventions that derive from this study.