Improving Rate of Asthma Action Plan Completion in Primary Care Pediatric Clinics

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FIND a Process to Improve *(What is the opportunity or problem statement?)*

The Asthma Action Plan (AAP) is an important tool for patients with asthma to manage their asthma symptoms. The rate of AAP use for patients was steadily decreasing in our primary care pediatric clinics. A grant was used to develop a mixed-methods study that identified barriers and suggestions for improvements among the primary care pediatricians. The goal of this project was to implement improvement ideas and increase AAP completion rate.

ORGANIZE a Team *(Who are the key players impacting the process or impacted by it?)*
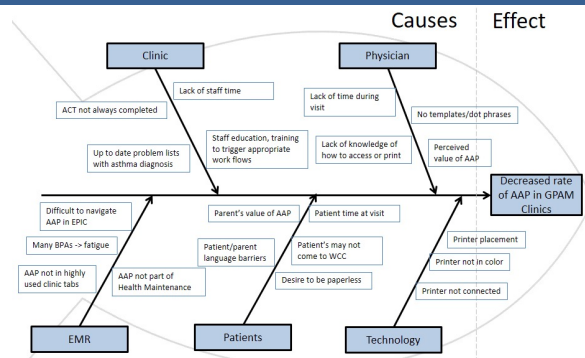
Julia Blue, DO; Karen Pletta, MD; Bradley Kerr, MS; Megan A Moreno, MD, MSed, MPH; Primary care pediatric teams

CLARIFY Current State *(What information can help define the current state of the process?)*

The AAP completion rate had been declining and was 51% in January 2021. A study had identified suggestions for improvement by the primary care pediatricians.

SMART Goal: *We will increase the rate of AAP completion by 5% in six months.*

UNDERSTAND Variation *(What are the most common causes of variation that contribute to the problem?)*

SELECT the Improvement *(What change ideas would have the biggest impact on the common causes?)*

#	COMMON CAUSES	CHANGE IDEA(S)
1	Lack of time	- Share smart phrases with physicians - Re-evaluate staff work-flow for well child checks (WCC)
2	Difficult to navigate Electronic Health Record (EHR)	- Have AAP accessible in frequently used clinic tabs - Print directly from AAP input screen
3	Printer Problems	- Have IT set up exam room computers print to easily accessible printer

PLAN and DO the Improvement *(How will the changes be carried out and evaluated?)*
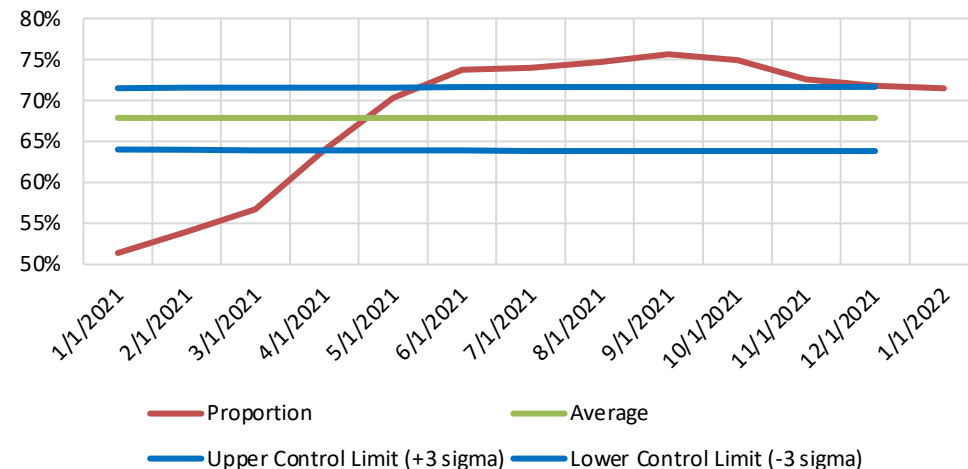
#	CHANGE IDEA(S)
1	Staff to identify patients due for AAP prior to WCC and give ACT during rooming
2	New AAP EHR link for faster flow
3	IT to set up accessible printer connection for each exam room computer

CHECK the Results *(What data will show if the process is improving?)*

Time	Rate of completion
Baseline	51.50%
1 month	54.10%
3 month	64.10%
6 month	74.10%
12 month	71.60%

Overall AAP completion rate improved by 22.6% over 6 months, surpassing initial SMART goal of 5%. The rate remained above goal for an additional 6 months and has stabilized near 71%

AAP Completion Rate in Pediatric Clinics
January 2021 - January 2022

ACT and Determine Next Steps *(What are the next steps based on what was learned?)*

Implementing pediatrician-identified improvements is an effective way to improve AAP completion rate.

Staff outreach time has been identified as a continued barrier

#	Next Steps
1	Trial of increased staff outreach time
2	Continue to monitor AAP Completion Rate
3	Continue to implement QI methods and make adjustments accordingly