

# Research Project: Primary Care Asthma Pathway Project

The Respiratory Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) is working on a childhood asthma project. Funding was secured through [The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System \(PRIHS II\) competition](#).

The **Primary Care Asthma Pathway Project (PCAPP)** is a three-year project which explores an innovative approach for managing childhood asthma in primary care clinics and improving related healthcare outcomes. Results will be available by the end of 2019.

## What is this project about?

Asthma is the most common chronic disease in childhood. At least 50 per cent of patients have poor control that results in frequent emergency treatment and hospitalization. While evidence suggests timely treatment with preventative therapies can substantially improve asthma control and reduce emergency department visits and hospitalizations, many children do not receive these therapies.

This trial aims to implement and evaluate a primary care clinical pathway which provides healthcare professionals with steps to guide the best care for children with asthma. Installed into an electronic medical record and using web-based self-paced learning, we anticipate certain barriers will be removed and prove to be a successful way to improve health outcomes.

The goal of the pathway is to increase the appropriate use of preventative medications for asthma, and decrease the frequency of unnecessary hospitalization. It also seeks to give patients better access to self-management education while decreasing health system costs overall.

This knowledge-to-action (randomized cluster controlled) trial will help identify factors that support pathway implementation. Establishing and validating a case definition for childhood asthma is another result of this work. If this trial proves to be effective, we can launch this pathway with physicians and health care professionals who support children with asthma.

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