

Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

Alberta Childhood Asthma Pathway

The Goal

In response to inconsistent approaches in hospital admissions and care for children with asthma, the Alberta Childhood Asthma Pathway (ACAP) was created to guide the treatment of childhood asthma in inpatient, urgent care and emergency settings.

The Process

A provincial team has worked together to adapt an existing clinical pathway using the latest Canadian guidelines and evidence.

The adapted pathway revolves around the appropriate use of Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs) and spacers. It also focuses on using a Pediatric Respiratory Assessment Measurement (PRAM) score. The PRAM score is used for categorizing patients into mild, moderate, severe and impending respiratory failure in order to tailor their treatment accordingly.

After a successful pilot in Medicine Hat, the pathway was rolled out provincially and included online, in-person and telehealth training for staff. Implementing the pathway included site and setting-based implementation plans, an implementation toolkit, and a series of clinical tools adapted to suit local process.

The Outcome

By April 2015, implementation of the ACAP was complete at 105 sites across the province. It has resulted in substantial improvements in the therapies used and medication is now delivered more safely and efficiently.

A full evaluation report of this project is expected by January 2016.

The Team

This project is led by the Respiratory Health SCN in partnership with Zone operations teams.



The Alberta Childhood Asthma Pathway (ACAP) has standardized the treatment of childhood asthma across Alberta.