

### **Scope of the Problem**

Despite excellent intentions and pockets of superb care, a major opportunity exists to improve care for children with asthma and their families, as much care is still delivered in ways that are not consistent with the evidence. Affecting nine million children, childhood asthma is the most common serious pediatric chronic disease. African-American and Puerto Rican children have a higher prevalence of asthma compared with non-hispanic white children. Furthermore, the incidence of pediatric asthma continues to grow; it accounts for 14.7 million missed school days a year and 44% of all asthma hospitalizations.

During August 2007, under the auspices of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAAEP) issued the first comprehensive update in a decade of asthma guidelines for the diagnosis and management of asthma (NHLBI asthma guidelines). The guidelines emphasize the importance of asthma control and introduce new approaches for monitoring asthma. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recognizes that increased exposure to the new guidelines coupled with implementation support will decrease gaps in care and help move towards optimal care for children with asthma.

### **Chapter Quality Network (CQN) Asthma Pilot Project**

The AAP is developing the Chapter Quality Network (CQN) to invest in the valuable and unique support structure offered by AAP chapters as a provider of quality improvement (QI) programs that meet the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program requirements. The CQN will be a program of the Chapter Alliance for Quality Improvement (CAQI) and is intended to be a means to assist state AAP chapters in developing capacity to support quality improvement activities of member practices. The initial CQN program will focus on asthma and be built upon existing AAP programs.

Through participation in the CQN, chapters will learn QI methods, how to apply these methods and how to leverage the chapter's unique position to lead and catalyze improvement. Member practices will adapt changes that result in improved asthma care while obtaining part four credit. The long term goal is to create the basis of a sustainable, chapter-based approach supporting improvements in pediatric care.

### **Program Mission**

The CQN asthma program works at the practice, state and national levels to build a network of AAP chapters and enhance their ability to lead quality improvement collaboratives to achieve measurable improvements in the health outcomes of children. This will be accomplished by creating a platform and learning environment to support chapters in accomplishing their aims and outcomes. The program will produce a new, high performing group of chapter leaders who will work together to develop a new model of service to chapter members.

### **How to Become Involved**

The Ohio Chapter has designated P. Cooper White, MD, Locust Pediatric Group at Children's Hospital Medical Center Akron, as the Physician Project Leader, along with Kimberly Spoonhower, MD, also at Children's Hospital Medical Center Akron, as the Local Asthma Expert. For more information on the CQN Asthma Pilot Project, please contact Heather Hall, Chapter Project Manager, at (614) 846-6258 or via email at [hhall@ohioaap.org](mailto:hhall@ohioaap.org).