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IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE # 1: Decrease asthma/COPD morbidity and mortality in affected adults and children through improved quality of asthma/COPD case-management (ambulatory & hospital)

Cross-cutting ambulatory and hospital asthma & COPD high-impact interventions

- Bronchodilator for active symptoms
- ASTHMA: Inhaled steroid all persistent asthma (tailored to severity)
- COPD: LABA and/or anti-cholinergic (FEV1 < 60% or moderate-severe disease); ICS moderate-severe disease (FEV1 < 60%)
- Identification & control triggers & risk factors
- Exacerbation management (ambulatory vs. hospital): oral or IV steroid, nebulized bronchodilator, oxygen if needed
- Patient self-management support

AMBULATORY ASTHMA & COPD INTERVENTIONS & INDICATORS

Based on most recent GOLD, GINA, and NHLBI recommendations

Case-Management Category	Essential Interventions
Documentation at least once in Chart (any prior time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis duration; prior history asthma/COPD hospitalizations/intubations & exacerbations • Family history (+ or -) • Allergies and triggers • Tobacco history (adults & teens): Current, Former or Never smoker quit)
Assessment <u>every</u> clinical encounter/visit	<p><u>Verbal interview</u> (+/- standardized self-assessment form)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma symptoms & frequency bronchodilator use since last visit • Updated medication review: specific meds/doses, self-reported adherence, side effects • Illnesses or new diagnoses since last visit? • New triggers in home? (e.g. pets/smokers) • Tobacco status <p><u>Physical Exam:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulmonary exam documented • Peak flow measure (if used in clinic or village doctor’s office)
Asthma/ COPD control status	<u>Asthma:</u> Updated classification of asthma status every visit based on current control & future risk (see job



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<p>defined <u>every</u> visit (dynamic process based on assessment)</p>	<p>aid)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification categories: mild intermittent; mild, moderate or severe persistent • Uncontrolled: _Daytime asthma symptoms > 2x/week or nocturnal symptoms > 2x/month (regardless of current medications); impaired functioning due to symptoms <p><u>COPD</u>: severity/frequency cough, dyspnea; sputum production</p>
<p>Treatment Interventions every visit (based on control status)</p>	<p><u>Asthma</u>: Tailor treatment to updated asthma status assessment every visit (“stepwise approach”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhaled steroid for all persistent asthma tailored to updated control status • Nebulized budesonide in case of persistent asthma in infants/young children and adults unable to use MDI. • Bronchodilator with appropriate delivery mechanism per patient age/ability (e.g. Inhaler, age-appropriate spacer; nebulizer, etc.) • Other oral asthma medications (e.g. leukotriene inhibitors) <p><u>COPD</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-cholinergic and/or LABA for moderate to severe COPD • Inhaled steroid for all moderate to severe COPD (based on clinical assessment or FEV1 < 60%) <p>-Referral pulmonologist all uncontrolled moderate persistent asthma and moderate COPD</p>
<p>Risk Factor & Trigger Modification Plan every visit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco cessation treatment plan all smokers • Allergen exposure reduction for known allergens • Trigger avoidance for identified triggers
<p>Ambulatory Follow up & Patient Education</p>	<p>-Follow up specified (time & place)</p> <p>-Verification/demonstration proper medication and equipment technique every visit (age-appropriate spacer w/ inhaler, nebulizer use) (nurse or doctor—have patient bring meds to all visits)</p> <p>-Written asthma action plan (in the case of escalating symptoms)</p> <p>-Patient education counseling (nurse or doctor) & distribution patient education materials</p>



<p>Exacerbations: Ambulatory Management</p> <p>Appropriate if: -no respiratory distress after initial bronchodilator treatment or no signs of severe illness -Able to comply with ambulatory treatment & follow up</p>	<p><u>Ambulatory Treatment</u> for asthma exacerbation (escalating frequency & severity of symptoms despite treatment adherence):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral steroid x 5 days (fixed dose--specify) or increase in inhaled steroid with close follow up • Increased regular frequency of bronchodilator until exacerbation decreasing with as needed additional use • Treat any identified precipitating causes (e.g. pneumonia, strep pharyngitis, etc) • Patient education (danger sign review) and specific follow-up plan
<p>Exacerbations: requiring hospital management</p> <p>Appropriate if: -Significant respiratory distress (incr. RR, retractions, accessory muscle use etc) -Dehydration (especially infant/young child) -Failed ambulatory management (not improving or worsening despite maximum treatment)</p>	<p><u>Hospital referral & Stabilization Interventions</u></p> <p>-Completion of standardized referral form & communication w/ hospital if possible -Transport plan per patient severity -Follow- up plan communicated to family -Follow-up with patient or family member by nurse or doctor within 2-3 days (e.g. phone call to family or hospital)</p>



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Acronyms:

BP Blood Pressure

COPD Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

FEV1 Forced Expiratory Volume in One Second (measured via spirometry)

ICS Inhaled Cortico-steroid

LABA Long-acting Beta2 Agonist (bronchodilator)

PEF Peak Expiratory Flow (measured via Peak Flow Meter)

PFM Peak Flow Meter (bed-side measure of expiratory air flow; variable evidence for impact on management)

RR Respiratory Rate

SOB Shortness of Breath