

Sample abstract from 2005 meeting.

**THE ASTHMA DIALOGUES: TRAINING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS,
EVALUATING PATIENTS**

**Robert Morrow, MD, Jason Fletcher, M.A.,M.S, Michael Mulvihill, D.PH. .,
Department of Family and Social Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert
Einstein College of Medicine, USA**

Purpose: Using skills training to improve the asthma skills of healthcare providers, and patient outcomes, in an urban Health Plan

Methods: The training uses a self-efficacy model of education. Using realistic multimedia simulations, we focus on diagnosis, level of severity, and appropriate management. The tools of asthma care, as well as the issues of access and chronic care, are explored in a practical manner. The progress of the learners is evaluated by the use of pre and post clinical simulations, as well as pre and post self-efficacy scales. The material has been delivered in a series of two small group training sessions and two follow-up computerized modules. The Health Plan collected data on visit rates, ED use, hospitalization rates, appropriate medication use, and Plan costs. A before-after design was used evaluate the learners [n=300] and Plan measures.

Results: Learners reported fewer barriers after the intervention. Following completion, providers are significantly more likely to make appropriate use of prescriptions, asthma equipment and patient training. Significant increases are also seen in intended use of action plan development, and contact availability, and significant reductions in planned ED referrals and hospitalization. Patient outcome data show significant, important drops in ED use, hospitalization, inappropriate medications, and Plan costs per asthmatic.

Conclusions: Skills based training leads to measurable improvements in healthcare providers' planned decisions, perceived barriers to care, and in patient outcomes measures. The use of process measures of learners and patient outcomes measures are promising and mutually reinforcing approaches to evaluate professional education.

Put web link and full address and email if you like. Also suggested are benefits in seeing or attending this presentation and the intended audience or unique technology used.