

Topic: Asthma

date updated: 8/11/03

Description:

- *Asthma is a condition in which the airways of the lungs become either narrowed or completely blocked, impeding normal breathing. Once the airways become obstructed, it takes more effort to force air through them, so breathing becomes labored. This obstruction of the lungs is reversible, either spontaneously or with medication.*
- *Asthma may be caused by a variety of reasons including:*
 - allergic trigger: pollen, cockroaches, weather, mold, dust, weather, animals, smoke, room deodorizers, foods,
 - non-allergic trigger; respiratory infection, exercise, expression of strong emotion, Bronchial Airways inflamed
 - heredity

Questions at intake/ Management Data:

<p>1. What symptoms of concern does your child exhibit?</p>	<p>Possibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wheezing: a whistling or rattling sound</i> • <i>Coughing: when there is excessive mucus,</i> • <i>Shortness of breath.</i> • <i>Lips or fingernails turning blue</i> • <i>Fatigue</i> • <i>Difficulty playing, eating, walking, talking or sleeping</i> • <i>Restlessness or agitation</i> • <i>Chest pain or tightness</i> • <i>Face red, pale, or swollen</i> • <i>Sucking in at chest or neck</i> • <i>Flaring nostrils or open mouth</i> • <i>Dark circles under the eyes</i> • <i>Grunting</i> 			
<p>2. What specialized equipment or medication does your child use for his/her condition?</p>	<p>Equipment</p>	<p>Training</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ see Respiratory Treatments Attachment ❖ Request specific care sheet from parents for training 		<p>Direct</p>	<p>Indirect</p>	
	<p><i>Nebulizer : request training</i></p>	<p>X</p>		
	<p><i>Inhaler : request training</i></p>	<p>X</p>		
	<p><i>Flowmeter</i></p>	<p>X</p>		
	<p>Medications</p>			
	<p><i>Bronchodilators(dilate openers) are drugs that open up or dilate the constricted or narrowed airways *requires training and med. admin form</i></p>	<p>X</p>		
	<p><i>Anti-inflammatories are drugs aimed at reducing inflammation of the airways * requires training and med. Admin form</i></p>	<p>X</p>		



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Questions at Intake: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the child's reaction to the condition (e.g. is there any panicking, etc.? what are the calming techniques used when an episode occurs?) 2. What level of involvement does the child have in identifying the need for treatment, (i.e. do they notify an adult of a concern and if so how) 3. What is the child's treatment involvement (i.e. do they self administer the treatment or how does the parents occupy the child during treatment.) 4. What are the child's typical symptoms or indicators of an asthmatic attack? 5. What type of activity has the child needed special attention in the past?
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For administration

1. Staff Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any person trained to provide the treatment can administer the care, the child may be able to administer his or her own medication. Clarify this on the Care Plan.
2. Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency of treatments Transportation Guidelines and Procedures Equipment Provision – where does equipment come from? Cleaning and Care of Equipment – how often, who is responsible, how is equipment transported or maintained
3. Paperwork Necessary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care plan for daily management ER plan for Asthma Attack Medication Administration Form Training Checklists for Equipment : ASK PARENT for current information

Additional Resources

American Lung Association of Minnesota
www.alamn.org
www.lungusa.org

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
 1233 20th Street N.W., Suite 402
 Washington, DC 20036
 800-7-asthma
www.aafa.org

611 East Wells Street

National Asthma Education and Prevention Program
 National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Information Center
 P.O Box 30105
 Bethesda, MD 20824
 301-592-8573
<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov>

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology
 611 East Wells Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53202
 800-822-asma

<http://www.aaaai.org>

Attachments:

- Sample Asthma ER plan
- Medication Administration form
- Caring for Children with Special Health Needs: Asthma doc.
- Caring for Children with Special Health Needs: Respiratory Treatments doc.

