

SEEKING EMERGENCY CARE FOR ASTHMA

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

When asthma symptoms suddenly worsen and relief is not provided by usual medications or other measures, emergency treatment is necessary to stabilize respiratory function. Knowing what to try, and how to get the help needed if those measures do not work, is the key to stabilizing respiratory function.

BACKGROUND

ASSESSMENT

- Assess knowledge of when to seek emergency care.
- Identify patient's access to emergency care—phone numbers, addresses, and directions for both clinic and emergency room. Assess transportation availability.
- Discuss the Action Plan or the need to have an Action Plan if one does not already exist.

Educational Messages

There are two types of situations in which immediate medical assistance* is necessary:

*Immediate medical assistance include calling 911, or going to the nearest emergency room, urgent care center or walk-in clinic.

1. When symptoms are sudden and very severe at the start, or whenever when late warning signs appear (i.e. RED zone of action plan).
2. When you don't see any improvement or your symptoms get worse even after rescue medicine has been administered.

If you are not sure what to do, call your healthcare provider or nurse advice line. If you go to the clinic or emergency room, remember to bring your action plan and medicines when you go to the clinic or emergency room.

Free transportation options:

- Hopelink
- Taxi
- ASAP rides

- EMS (911) in cases of emergency

Refer to What Happens When You Call 911? Training notes for specific information about what to expect when you call 911.

Actions

CHW ACTIONS	CAREGIVER/CHILD ACTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review asthma warning signs • Review knowledge of peak flow monitoring • Review Action Plan or the importance of having an action plan if participant doesn't already have one. • Contact project nurse if client needs emergency contact phone information. • Review that a plan for transportation to clinic or emergency department is in place. • Review emergency information is recorded on "My emergency information" card and posted in visible location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of Asthma warning signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of when to see immediate medical attention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate correct peak flow monitoring technique. • Know emergency phone numbers. • Have transportation and backup plan in place • Emergency Information is recorded on "My emergency information" card and posted in visible location.

Follow Up Visit

As directed

SUPPLIES

- Asthma rescue medications
- Contact information of medical providers
- Transportation contact information

Action Plan

EDUCATION HANDOUTS REFERRALS

