



ADVANCING INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

# Welcome

## Asthma Planning Meeting

*Care Transformation Collaborative of Rhode Island*

February 11, 2021

# Agenda

Topic <i>Presenter(s)</i>	Duration
Welcome, Review of Agenda <i>Ashley Fogarty, MPH, Asthma Program Manager, RIDOH</i>	5 minutes
Asthma Updates: Pediatrics <i>Daniella Teape, MD</i>	15 minutes
Asthma Updates: Adults <i>Andrew Foderaro, MD</i>	15 minutes
Asthma Performance data Gayle Dichter, VP Integrated Care Strategies, NHPRI	15 minutes
Next Steps & Meeting <i>Susanne Campbell, RN, MS, PCMH CCE, CTC-RI Senior Project Director</i>	10 minutes

# “Quick Relief: Updates for your Pediatric Asthma management toolbelt”

Daniella Teape, MD

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Pediatric Pulmonologist

Co- medical director of Hasbro Severe asthma program

February 11th, 2022



No conflicts of interest

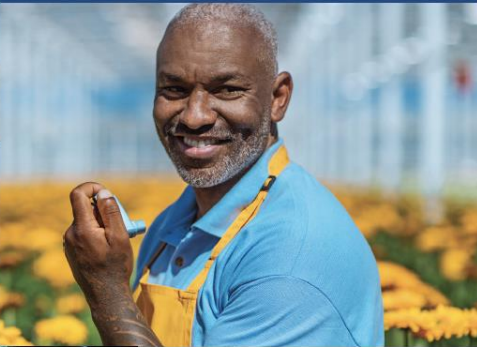
# Objectives

- Discuss key changes to asthma management in children
- Examine updated stepwise approach for management of asthma

# Objectives

- Discuss key changes to asthma management in children
- Examine updated stepwise approach for management of asthma

# 2020 FOCUSED UPDATES TO THE Asthma Management Guidelines



A Report from the National  
Asthma Education and Prevention  
Program Coordinating Committee  
Expert Panel Working Group

- Clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and management of asthma
- Guidelines published 1991, followed by revisions in 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2020
- 2020 focused on asthma management





## The six priority topics

- Utility of fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO)
- Importance of remediation of indoor allergens
- Intermittent use of inhaled corticosteroid for treatment of asthma
- Benefits of long-acting antimuscarinic agents (LAMA) add-ons to inhaled corticosteroids
- Immunotherapy and the management of asthma
- Bronchial thermoplasty in adult severe asthma





## Priority topics :

- Utility of fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO)
- Importance of remediation of indoor allergens
- Intermittent use of inhaled corticosteroid for treatment of asthma
- Benefits of Long-acting antimuscarinic agents (LAMA) additions to inhaled corticosteroids



## Priority topics :

- Utility of fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO)

# Fractional exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO)

- Measure the level of nitric oxide (NO) on exhalation
- Indicator of type 2 or eosinophilic inflammation in the airway
- Single breath technique with constant expiratory flow
- Primary or subspecialty clinic



**Table II:** Interpretations of FeNO Test Results for Asthma Diagnosis in Nonsmoking Individuals Not Taking Corticosteroids\*

**FeNO Level**

**<25 ppb** **Low**  
(**<20 in children ages 5–12**)

- Recent or current corticosteroid use
- Alternative diagnoses
- Phenotype less likely to benefit from ICS
- Noneosinophilic asthma
- COPD
- Bronchiectasis
- CF
- Vocal cord dysfunction

**25–50 ppb** **Intermediate**  
(**20–35 in children ages 5–12**)

- Evaluate in clinical context
- Consider other diagnoses
- Consider other factors influencing result
- Eosinophilic asthma less likely

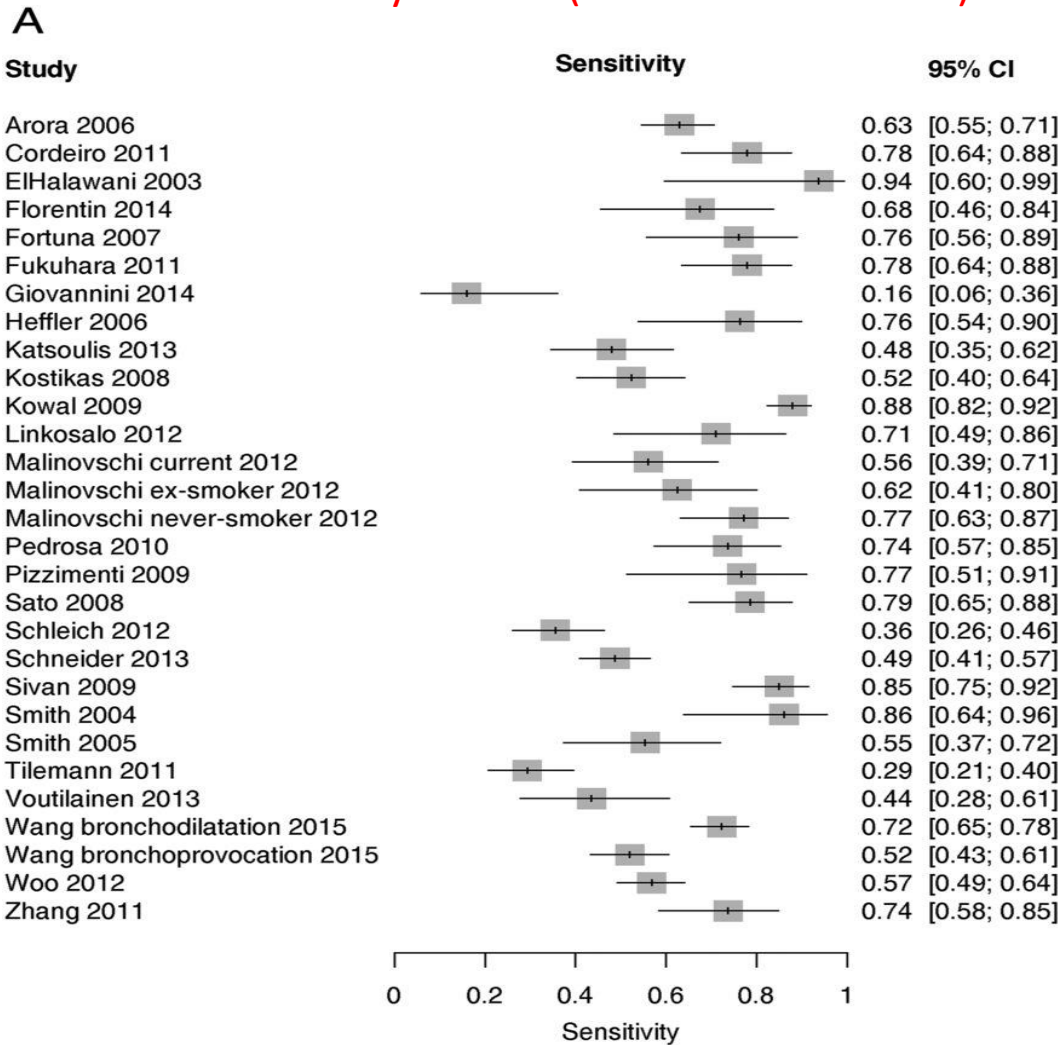
**>50 ppb** **Very high**  
(**>35 in children ages 5–12**)

- Eosinophilic airways inflammation likely
- Phenotype more likely to respond to ICS
- Allergic asthma
- Eosinophilic bronchitis

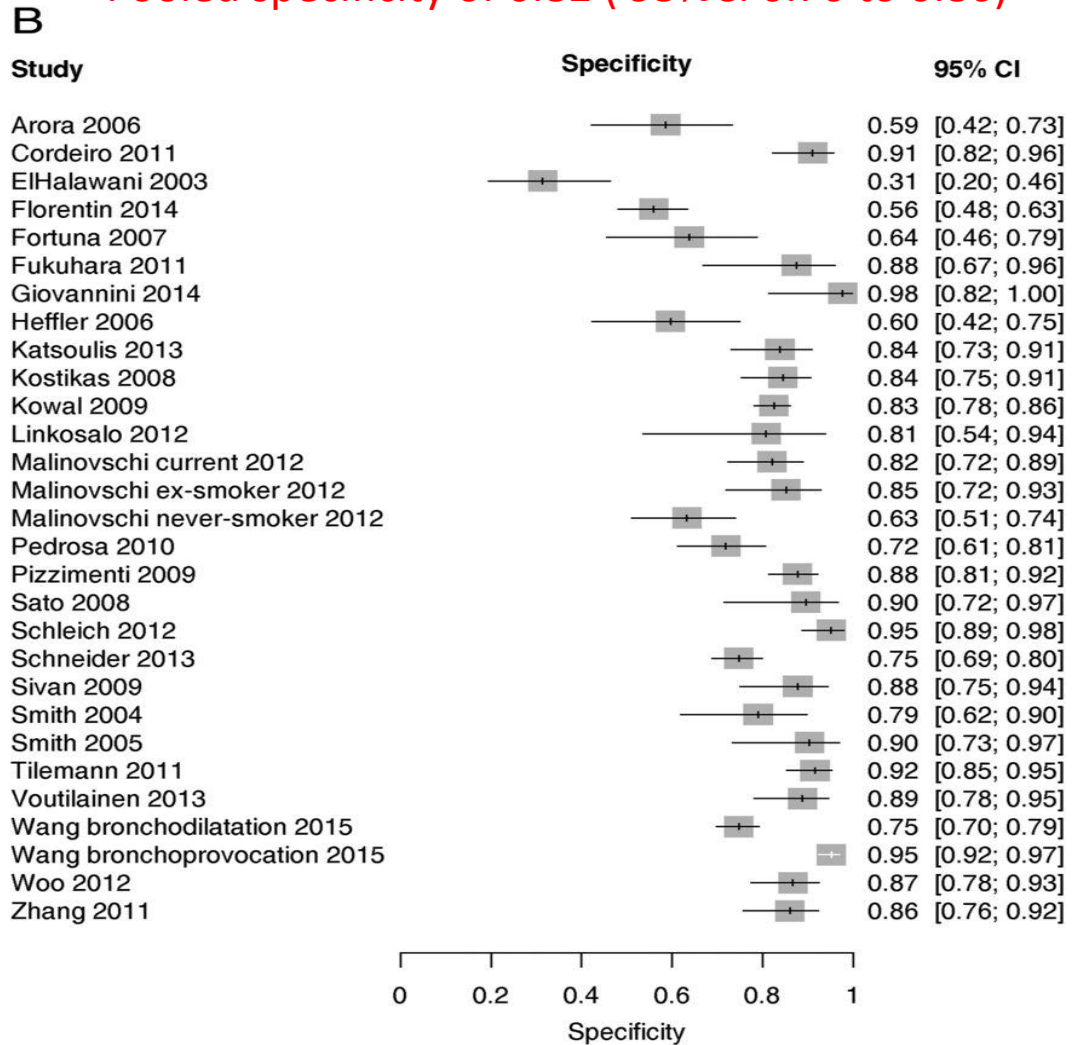
**Supports diagnosis of allergic asthma**

# FeNo measurement most useful for ruling in asthma

Pooled sensitivity of 0.65 ( 95%CI 0.58 to 0.72)



Pooled specificity of 0.82 ( 95%CI 0.76 to 0.86)



# Utilize FeNO adjunctively in the evaluation process for diagnosing asthma

- In children 5 years or older with uncertain asthma diagnosis
- Not recommended in children 4 years or younger due to inconclusive diagnostic accuracy

# Utilize FeNO adjunctively monitor of anti-inflammatory therapies

- 5 years and older with persistent allergic asthma.
  - Uncertainty in selecting, monitoring or adjusting anti-inflammatory therapies

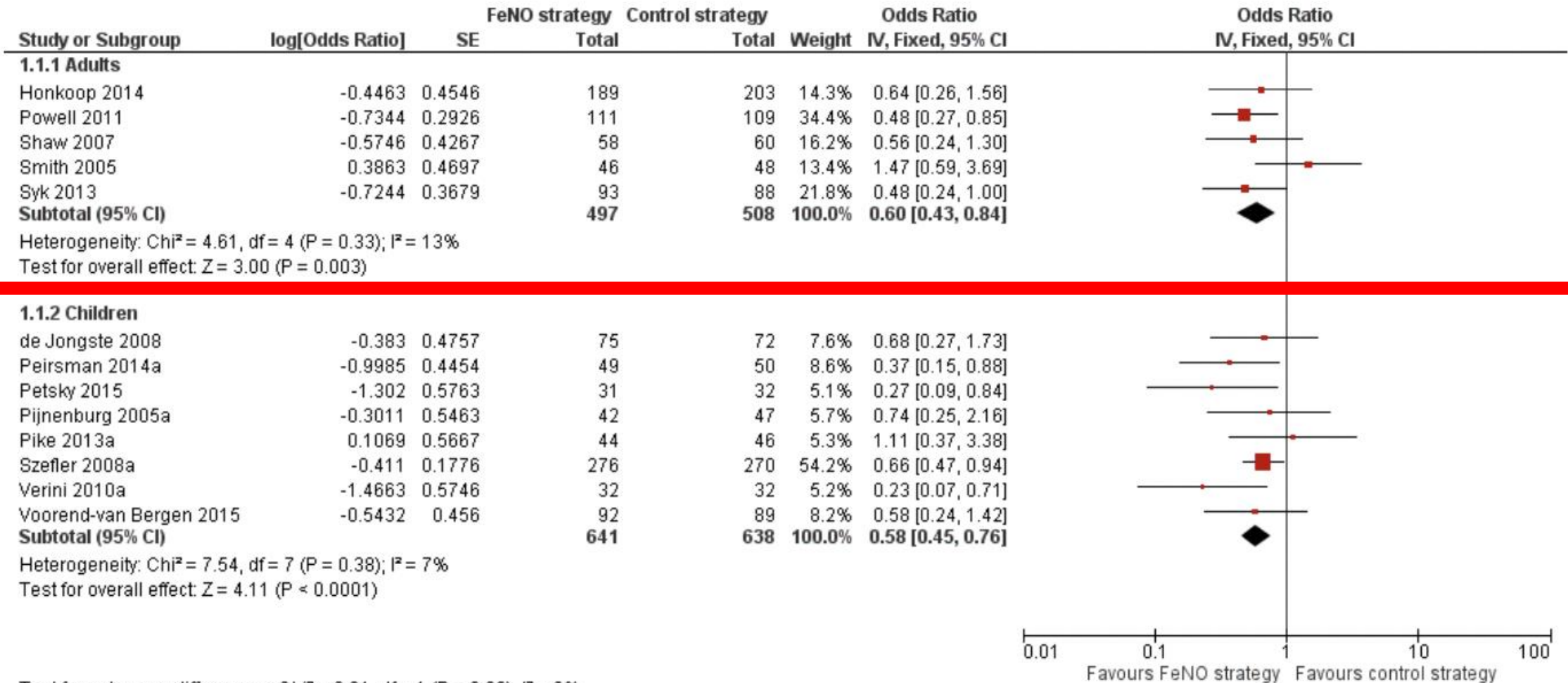
## Inhaled corticosteroids



## ICS/LABA combination inhalers



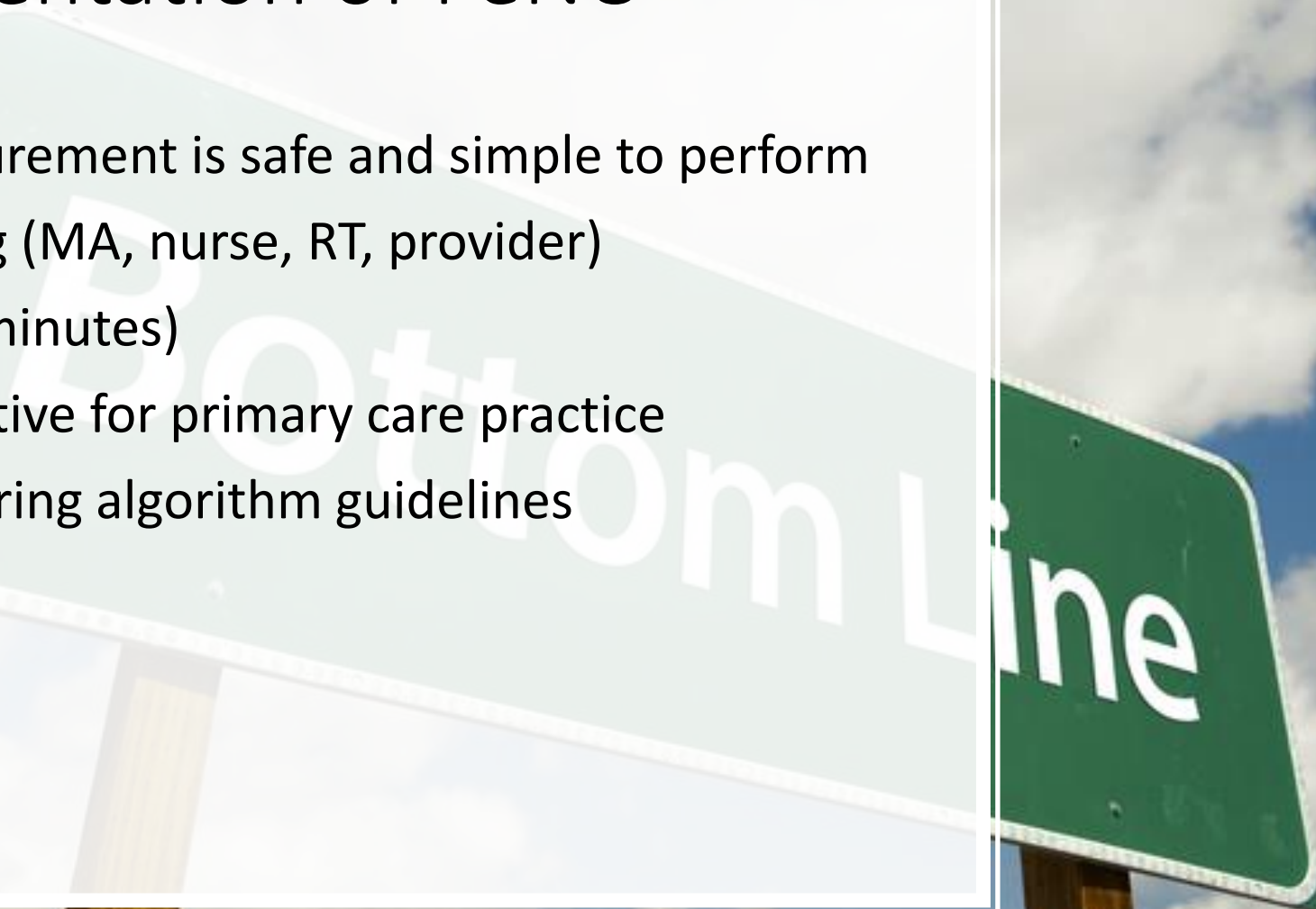
# FeNO reduces risk of acute asthma exacerbation





# Implementation of FeNO

- FeNO measurement is safe and simple to perform
- Staff training (MA, nurse, RT, provider)
- Time (5-10 minutes)
- Cost prohibitive for primary care practice
- Lack monitoring algorithm guidelines





# Priority topics :

- Importance of remediation of indoor allergens

# Indoor allergens



Allergen  
mitigation  
strategy

```
graph TD; A[Allergen mitigation strategy] --> B[Single component Interventions]; A --> C[Multicomponent Interventions];
```

Single component  
Interventions

Multicomponent  
Interventions

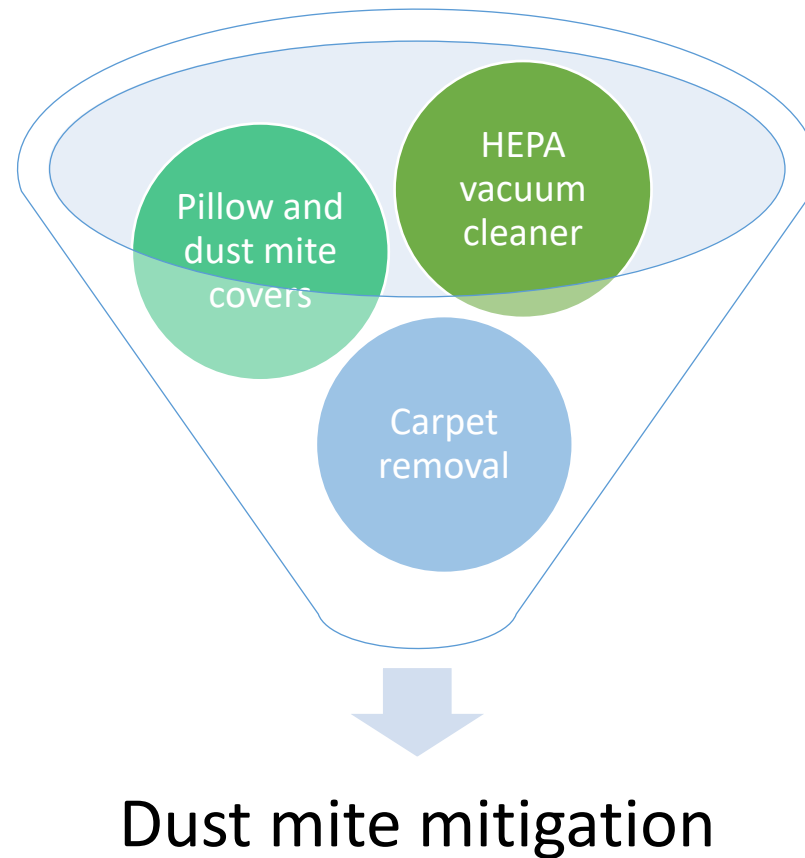
# Allergen mitigation interventions

## Single component mitigation strategies

- Pesticides eg. acaricide
- Integrated pest management
- Air purifiers and air filtration systems
- HEPA filter vacuum cleaners
- *Carpet removal*
- *Mold mitigation*
- Impermeable pillow and mattress covers
- Pet removal

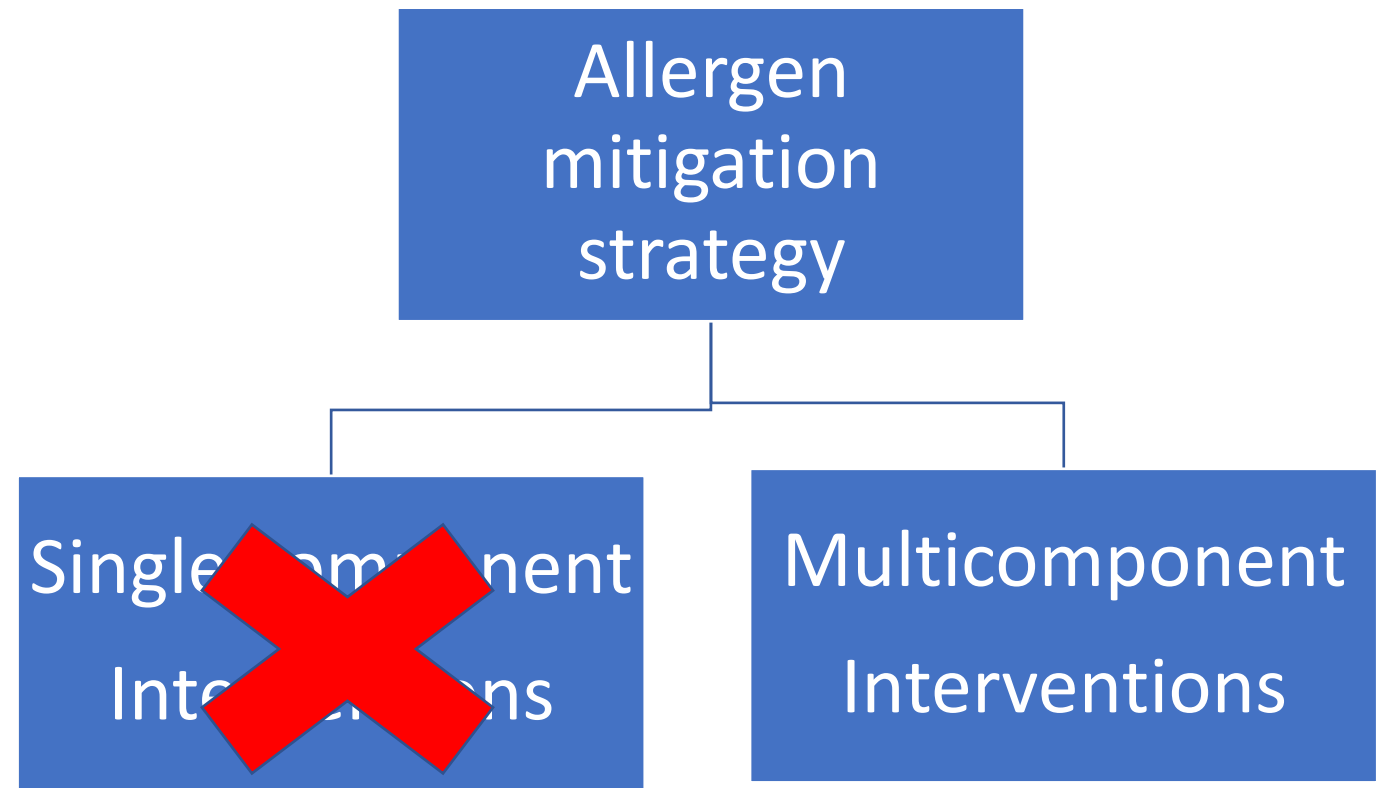


# Multicomponent intervention



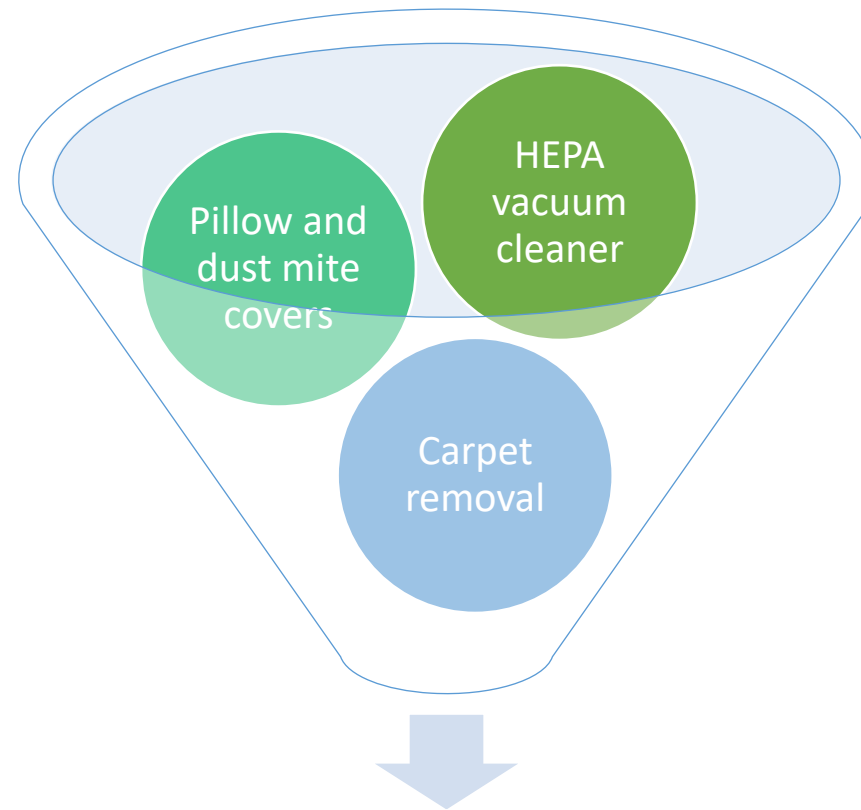
# Utilize multicomponent mitigation intervention

- Allergen exposure
- Allergy symptoms confirmed by history or positive allergy testing
- Single –component interventions do not work



# Utilize pillow/mattress covers ONLY as part of multicomponent intervention

- Reduction in the amount of asthma symptom days

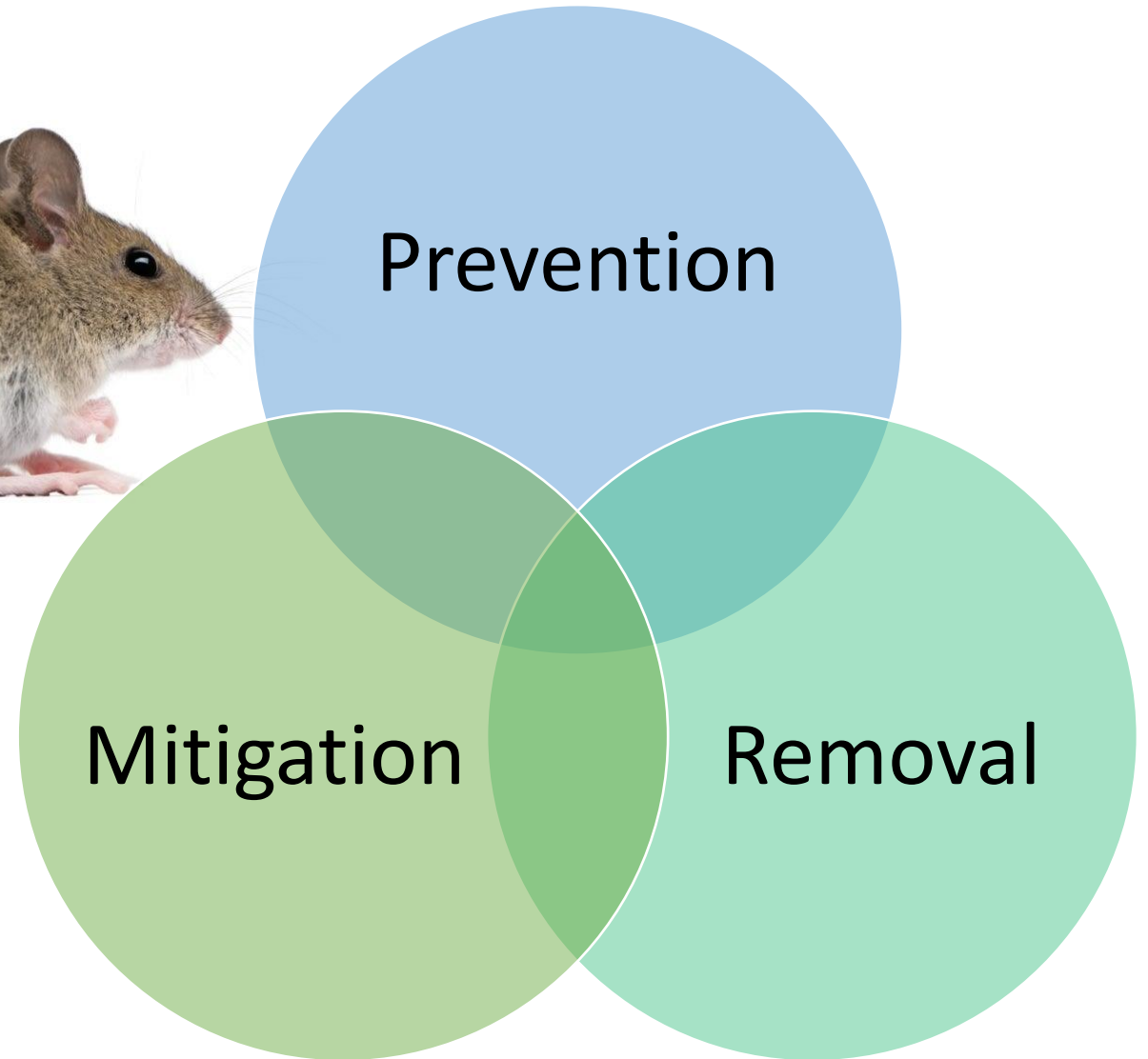


Dust mite mitigation



# Utilize integrated pest management alone for pest allergy

- Comprehensive approach to removing and controlling common indoor pest
- Reduction in respiratory symptoms score



## Boston based public housing initiative

Table 2  
Demographics of children in intervention study

	Franklin Hill (FH)	West Broadway (WeB)	Washington Beech (WaB)	Total
Number of children	22	21	7	50
Number of households	17	19	5	41
<i>Age at enrollment (%)</i>				
4-5	14	19	14	16
6-9	32	24	29	28
10-12	27	38	29	32
13-17	27	19	29	24
<i>Race/ethnicity (%)</i>				
Hispanic	55	81	86	70
African-American	45	14	14	28
Caucasian	0	5	0	2

### Integrated pest management approach

1. Trap placement, sealing of cracks and holes
2. One- time intensive cleaning with HEPA vacuum
3. In home education about pest reduction
4. Replacement of child's mattress

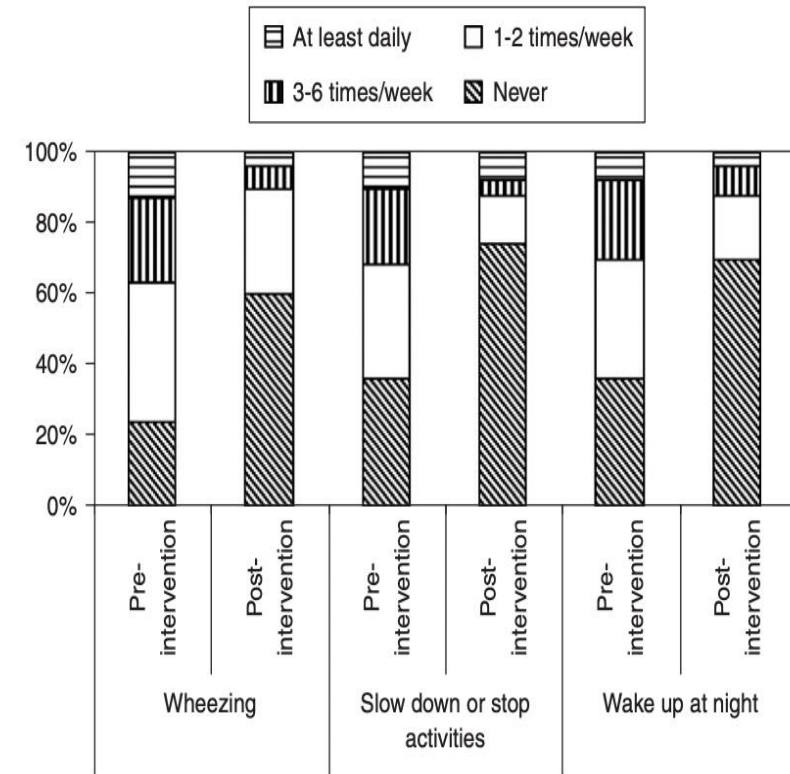


Fig. 1. Respiratory symptoms in the 2 weeks prior to enrollment versus the 2 weeks prior to the end of the study.

# Implementation of allergen mitigation intervention

- Utilize multicomponent mitigation strategy
- Integrated pest management for pest allergen control
- Easier said than done
- Community action groups
- Department of Health

Bottom Line

A red gift box with a large red bow and a gold ribbon. The box is partially open, revealing a gold interior. The background is white.

# Priority topics :

- Intermittent use of inhaled corticosteroid for treatment of asthma



# Daily medications → PRN

## Inhaled corticosteroids



## ICS/LABA combination inhalers



# Short course of inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) daily plus SABA PRN

- For children 0-4 years old & 12 years or older
- At the onset of symptoms of asthma exacerbation
- *5-11 years old evidence insufficient*

# Intermittent ICS plus SABA PRN

- 0-4 years old
- **Recurrent wheezing**
  - 3 or more lifetime episodes of wheezing or 2 or more in the past year triggered by respiratory tract infection (RTI)
- modified asthma predictive index (mAPI)
- Not taking daily asthma treatment
- **Preventive strategy for severe illness**



# Implementing add-on daily Inhaled corticosteroid to SABA PRN

- Recommended regimens
  - Short course of 7-10 days
  - ICS: budesonide 1 mg twice daily
- Alternative regimen
  - Fluticasone 750 mcg twice daily for 10 days



Ducharme et al. 2009  
Bacharier et al 2008  
Svedmyr et al 1999  
Zeiger et al 2011



# Intermittent ICS plus SABA PRN

- 12 years and older
- **Mild persistent asthma**
- Alternative regimen to daily ICS with add-on SABA PRN for asthma exacerbation
- No significant difference on asthma control, asthma quality of life, or frequency of asthma exacerbations
- Side effects are equally infrequent with daily and intermittent use.



# Implementing intermittent ICS plus SABA PRN

- **2-4 puffs of albuterol** followed by **80–250 mcg of Beclomethasone** equivalent every 4 hours as needed for asthma symptoms.



# Benefits versus risk of intermittent ICS plus SABA

## Benefits

- **33 % relative risk (RR) reduction** in exacerbations requiring systemic corticosteroids.
- Patients and/or caregivers can initiate intermittent ICS at home

## Risk

- *5 % lower gain in height and weight one RCT (Ducharme et al 2009).*



Ducharme et al. 2009  
Bacharier et al 2008  
Svedmyr et al 1999  
Zeiger et al 2011

# ICS-formoterol in single maintenance and reliever therapy (SMART)

- 4 years old or older
- Uncontrolled moderate to severe persistent asthma
- **ICS-formoterol** in a single inhaler used as both daily controller and reliever therapy
- Step 3 (low-dose ICS) and Step 4 (medium-dose ICS) treatment
- Prefer to step up to high dose ICS
- **Preventive strategy for severe illness**

# Implementing single maintenance and reliever therapy (SMART)

- **Formoterol** rapid onset of action
  - Budesonide-formoterol
  - Beclomethasone-formoterol
- ICS-formoterol should not be used as quick-relief therapy in individuals taking ICS-salmeterol as maintenance therapy
- The maximum total daily dose of formoterol
  - **8 puffs (36 mcg) for ages 4–11 years**
  - **12 puffs (54 mcg) for ages 12 years and older.**



# Benefits versus risk/drawbacks of SMART

## Benefits

- 35-51 % risk reduction in exacerbations
- Lower risk of growth suppression vs. daily high dose LABA +ICS in 4-11 y/o

## Risks & Drawbacks

- Formoterol only LABA studied
- Early refill of LABA-ICS



Rabel et al. 2006  
Schicchitano et al. 2004  
O'Byrne et al 2005

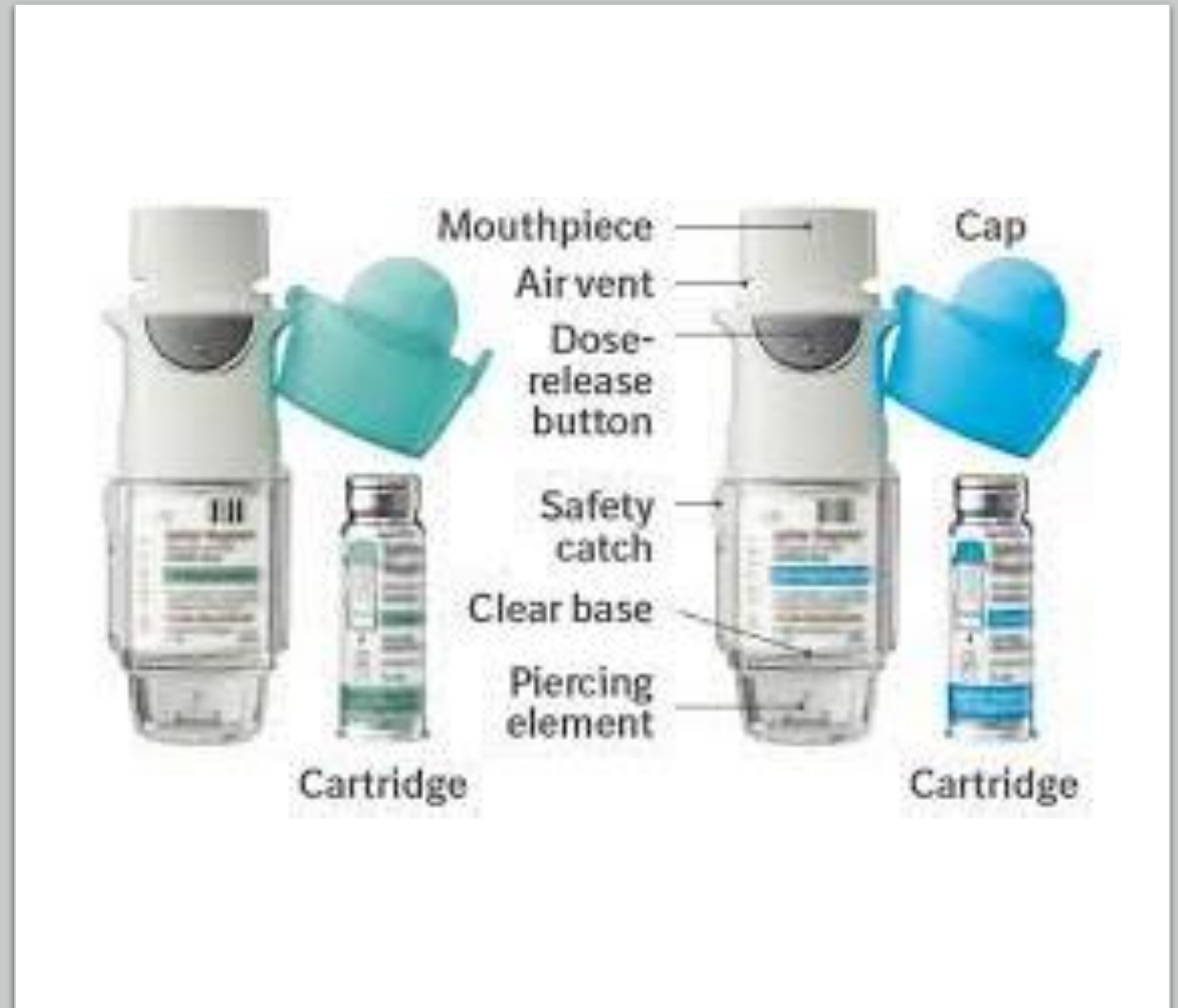


## Priority topics :

- Utility of fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO)
- Importance of remediation of indoor allergens
- Intermittent use of inhaled corticosteroid for treatment of asthma
- **Benefits of Long-acting antimuscarinic agents (LAMA) add-ons to inhaled corticosteroids**

# Long-acting muscarinic antagonist

- Long-acting bronchodilator
- FDA approved for 6 years old or older (February 2017)
- Adjunctive treatment of uncontrolled moderate to severe persistent asthma
- Breath actuated inhaler





# LABA- ICS preferred to LAMA- ICS

- 12 years or older with uncontrolled persistent asthma
- Key questions and systemic review did not address 6–11-year-old
- Step 4 therapy
- No difference in outcomes including rate of asthma exacerbations, asthma control, quality

# Benefits versus risk/drawbacks of LAMA- ICS versus ICS-LABA

## Benefits

- LABA-ICS *more efficacious* than LAMA-ICS

## Risks & Drawbacks

- Individuals at risk of urinary retention and those who have glaucoma should not receive LAMA therapy.
- *Increased risk of harm for Blacks (BELT study)*

# Add-on LAMA to ICS-LABA

- 12 years or older
- Uncontrolled persistent asthma on ICS-LABA
- Mitigate occupational and environmental triggers, assess medication adherence prior to considering addition of LAMA
- Exclude patients with glaucoma or urinary retention

# Benefits versus risk/drawbacks of add-on LAMA to LABA-ICS

## Benefits

- Small improvement in asthma control (ACQ-7) and quality of life

## Risks & Drawbacks

- No effect on asthma exacerbations requiring systemic corticosteroids or rescue medications



Kerstjens et al. 2012  
Wang et al. 2015

# Implementation of LAMA

- Unclear if small benefit of add-on LAMA to LABA-ICS outweigh potential risks
- Teaching individual how to administer device
- Medication adherence associated with additional inhaler
- Insurance coverage
- Alert patients and caregivers of increased risk for harm
- Further studies are needed



# Objectives

- Discuss key changes to asthma management in children
- **Examine updated stepwise approach for management of asthma**

**Figure 1.b:** Stepwise Approach for Management of Asthma in Individuals Ages 0–4 Years

		<b>Management of Persistent Asthma in Individuals Ages 0–4 Years</b>					
		<b>Intermittent Asthma</b>					
<b>Treatment</b>		<b>STEP 1</b>	<b>STEP 2</b>	<b>STEP 3</b>	<b>STEP 4</b>	<b>STEP 5</b>	<b>STEP 6</b>
<b>Preferred</b>		PRN SABA and At the start of RTI: Add short course daily ICS▲	Daily low-dose ICS and PRN SABA	Daily medium-dose ICS and PRN SABA	Daily medium-dose ICS-LABA and PRN SABA	Daily high-dose ICS-LABA and PRN SABA	Daily high-dose ICS-LABA + oral systemic corticosteroid and PRN SABA
<b>Alternative</b>			Daily montelukast* or Cromolyn,* and PRN SABA		Daily medium-dose ICS + montelukast* and PRN SABA	Daily high-dose ICS + montelukast* and PRN SABA	Daily high-dose ICS + montelukast* + oral systemic corticosteroid and PRN SABA

**Figure I.c:** Stepwise Approach for Management of Asthma in Individuals Ages 5–11 Years

	Intermittent Asthma	Management of Persistent Asthma in Individuals Ages 5–11 Years				
Treatment	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6
Preferred	PRN SABA	Daily low-dose ICS and PRN SABA	Daily and PRN combination low-dose ICS-formoterol <sup>▲</sup>	Daily and PRN combination medium-dose ICS-formoterol <sup>▲</sup>	Daily high-dose ICS-LABA and PRN SABA	Daily high-dose ICS-LABA + oral systemic corticosteroid and PRN SABA
Alternative		Daily LTRA,* or Cromolyn,* or Nedocromil,* or Theophylline,* and PRN SABA	Daily medium-dose ICS and PRN SABA or Daily low-dose ICS-LABA, or daily low-dose ICS + LTRA,* or daily low-dose ICS + Theophylline,* and PRN SABA	Daily medium-dose ICS-LABA and PRN SABA or Daily medium-dose ICS + LTRA* or daily medium-dose ICS + Theophylline,* and PRN SABA	Daily high-dose ICS + LTRA* or daily high-dose ICS + Theophylline,* and PRN SABA	Daily high-dose ICS + LTRA* + oral systemic corticosteroid or daily high-dose ICS + Theophylline* + oral systemic corticosteroid, and PRN SABA
		Steps 2–4: Conditionally recommend the use of subcutaneous immunotherapy as an adjunct treatment to standard pharmacotherapy in individuals ≥ 5 years of age whose asthma is controlled at the initiation, build up, and maintenance phases of immunotherapy <sup>▲</sup>			Consider Omalizumab <sup>**▲</sup>	



**Figure 1.d:** Stepwise Approach for Management of Asthma in Individuals Ages 12 Years and Older

		Intermittent Asthma	Management of Persistent Asthma in Individuals Ages 12+ Years			
Treatment	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6 <sup>■</sup>
<b>Preferred</b>	PRN SABA	Daily low-dose ICS and PRN SABA or PRN concomitant ICS and SABA ▲	Daily and PRN combination low-dose ICS-formoterol ▲	Daily and PRN combination medium-dose ICS-formoterol ▲	Daily medium-high dose ICS-LABA + LAMA and PRN SABA ▲	Daily high-dose ICS-LABA + oral systemic corticosteroids + PRN SABA
<b>Alternative</b>		Daily LTRA* and PRN SABA or Cromolyn,* or Nedocromil,* or Zileuton,* or Theophylline,* and PRN SABA	Daily medium-dose ICS and PRN SABA or Daily low-dose ICS-LABA, or daily low-dose ICS + LAMA, ▲ or daily low-dose ICS + LTRA,* and PRN SABA or Daily low-dose ICS + Theophylline* or Zileuton,* and PRN SABA	Daily medium-dose ICS-LABA or daily medium-dose ICS + LAMA, and PRN SABA ▲ or Daily medium-dose ICS + LTRA,* or daily medium-dose ICS + Theophylline,* or daily medium-dose ICS + Zileuton,* and PRN SABA	Daily medium-high dose ICS-LABA or daily high-dose ICS + LTRA,* and PRN SABA	
		Steps 2-4: Conditionally recommend the use of subcutaneous immunotherapy as an adjunct treatment to standard pharmacotherapy in individuals ≥ 5 years of age whose asthma is controlled at the initiation, build up, and maintenance phases of immunotherapy ▲			Consider adding Asthma Biologics (e.g., anti-IgE, anti-IL5, anti-IL5R, anti-IL4/IL13)**	

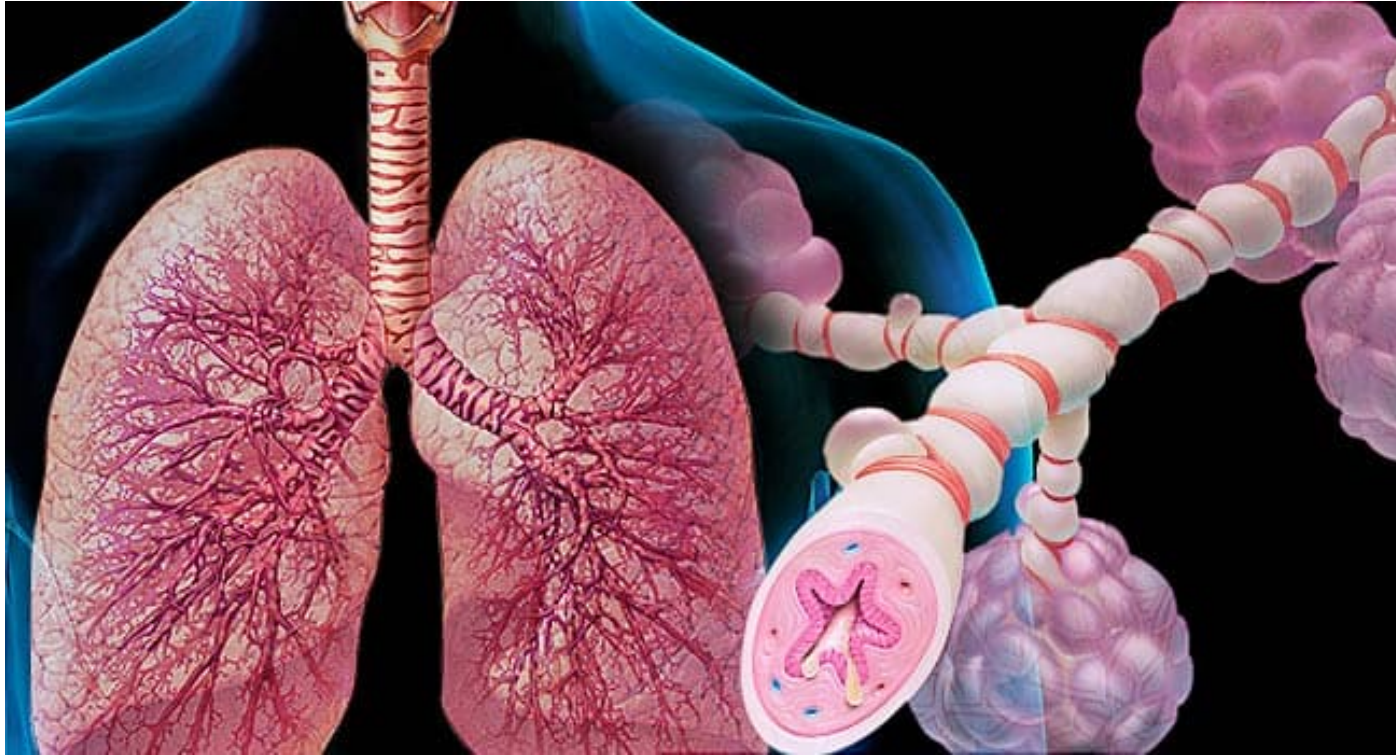
# Key take away points

- 0-4 y/o with recurrent wheezing EP conditionally recommended starting a short course of daily ICS at the onset of a RTI with as-needed SABA for quick-relief therapy compared to as-needed SABA for quick-relief therapy only.
- 4 years old or older with moderate to severe persistent asthma Expert Panel recommends **ICS-formoterol** in a single inhaler used as both daily controller and reliever therapy at step 3
- 12 years old or older conditional recommendations **2-4 puffs of albuterol** followed by **80–250 mcg of Beclomethasone(Qvar)** equivalent every 4 hours as needed for asthma symptoms at step 2.
- 12 years old or older with uncontrolled persistent asthma, the Expert Panel conditionally recommends against adding LAMA to ICS compared to adding LABA to ICS at step 5
- 12 years or older with uncontrolled persistent asthma, the Expert Panel conditionally recommends adding LAMA to ICS-LABA compared to continuing the same dose of ICS-LABA.

# Thank for your attention



# Asthma Updates: Adults



Andrew Foderaro, MD  
Assistant Professor in Medicine, Clinician Educator  
Division Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine  
Warren Alpert School of Medicine  
Brown University

# Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)

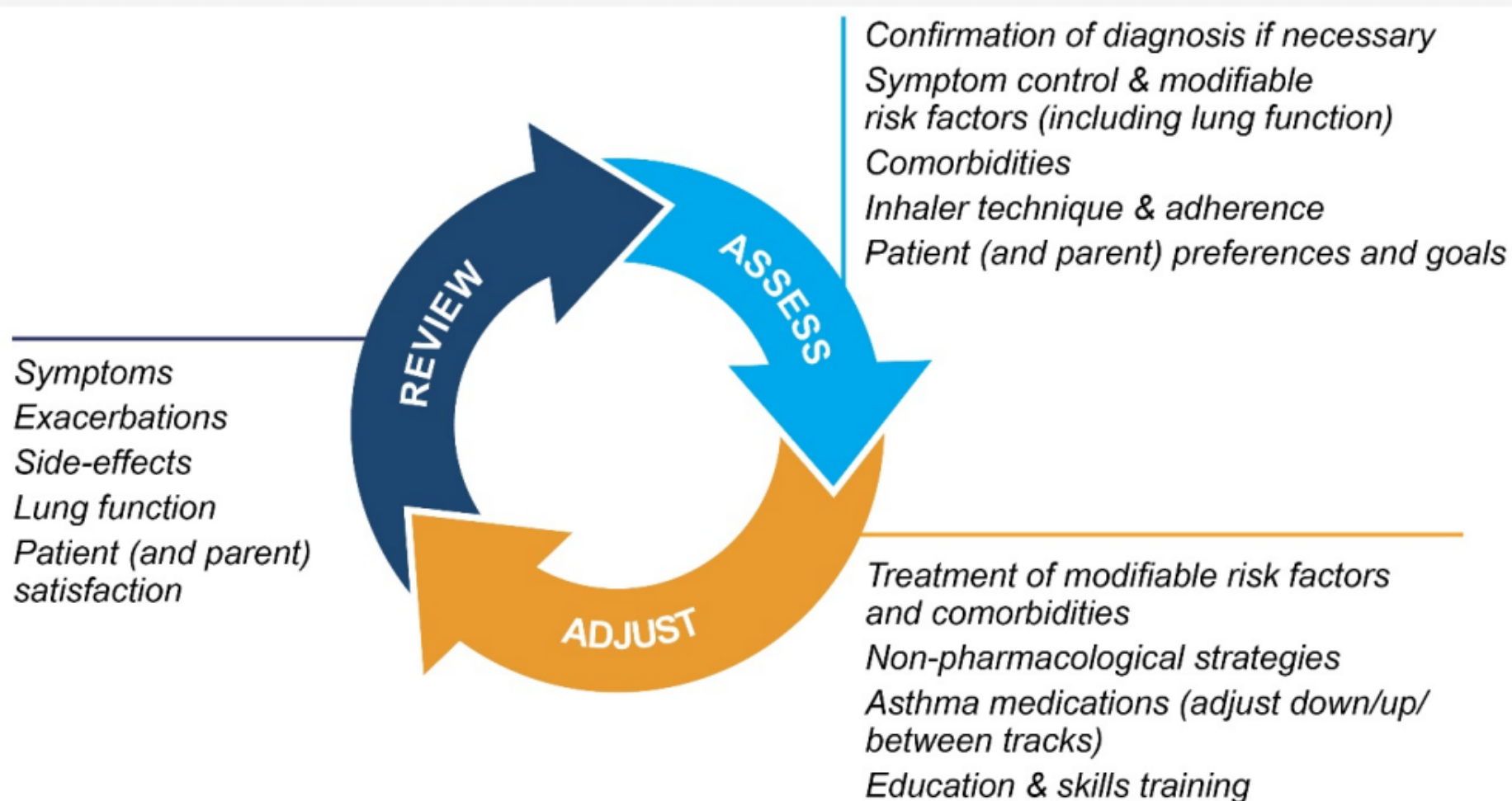
## What's new in GINA 2021?



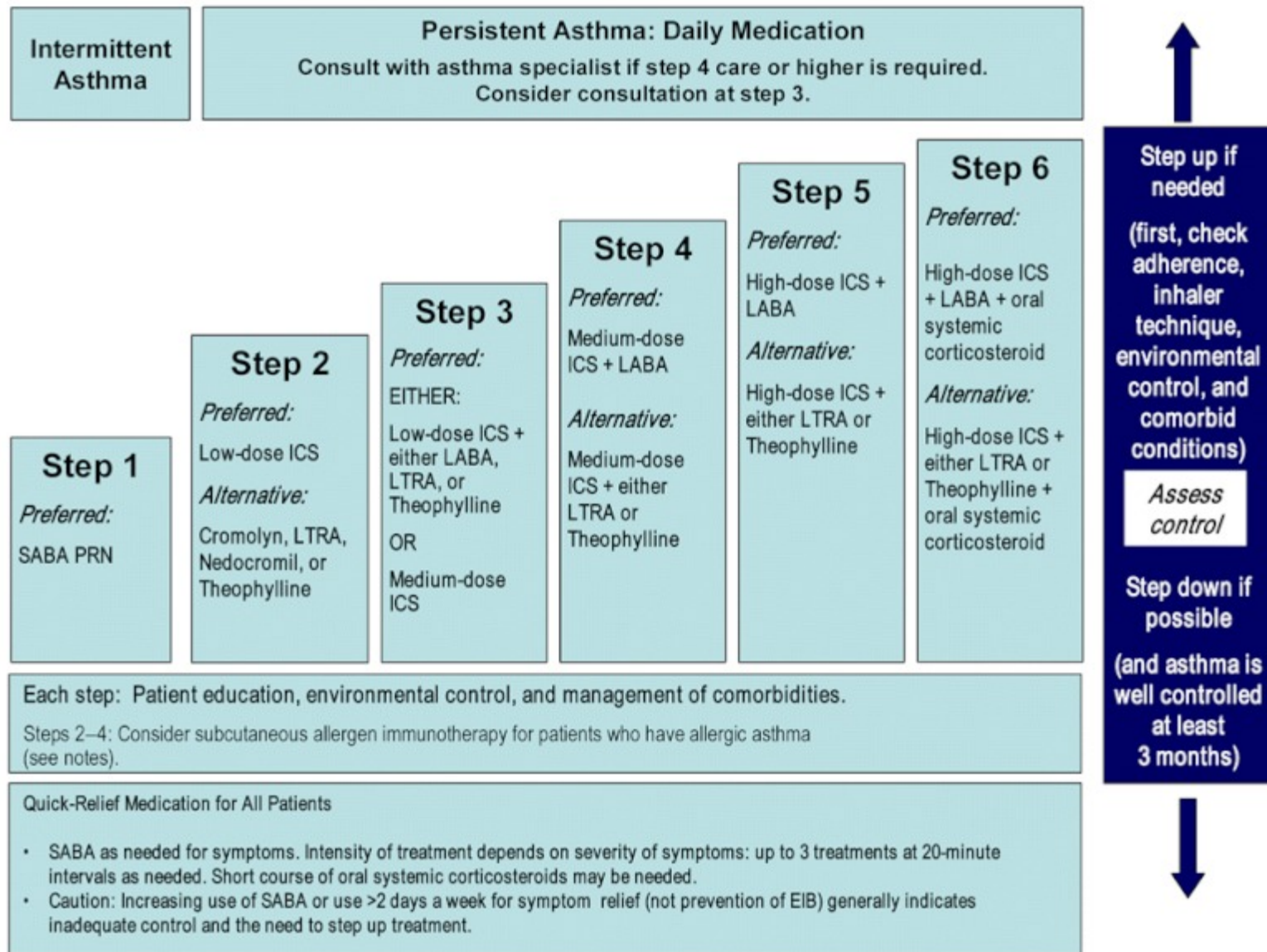
## GINA Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention

This slide set is restricted for academic and educational purposes only. No additions or changes may be made to slides. Use of the slide set or of individual slides for commercial or promotional purposes requires approval from GINA.

# Personalized asthma management



- NOT just about medications, NOT one-size-fits-all







Key: **Alphabetical order is used when more than one treatment option is listed within either preferred or alternative therapy.** ICS, inhaled corticosteroid; LABA, inhaled long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist, LTRA, leukotriene receptor antagonist; SABA, inhaled short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist



# GINA 2019: a fundamental change in asthma management

Treatment of asthma with short-acting bronchodilators alone is no longer recommended for adults and adolescents

Helen K. Reddel <sup>1</sup>, J. Mark FitzGerald<sup>2</sup>, Eric D. Bateman<sup>3</sup>,  
Leonard B. Bacharier<sup>4</sup>, Allan Becker<sup>5</sup>, Guy Brusselle<sup>6</sup>, Roland Buhl<sup>7</sup>,  
Alvaro A. Cruz<sup>8</sup>, Louise Fleming <sup>9</sup>, Hiromasa Inoue<sup>10</sup>, Fanny Wai-san Ko <sup>11</sup>,  
Jerry A. Krishnan<sup>12</sup>, Mark L. Levy <sup>13</sup>, Jiangtao Lin<sup>14</sup>, Søren E. Pedersen<sup>15</sup>,  
Aziz Sheikh<sup>16</sup>, Arzu Yorgancioglu<sup>17</sup> and Louis-Philippe Boulet<sup>18</sup>



- For safety, GINA no longer recommends SABA-only treatment for Step 1 in adults and adolescents
  - This decision was based on evidence that SABA-only treatment increases the risk of severe exacerbations, and that adding any ICS significantly reduces the risk
- GINA now recommends that all adults and adolescents with asthma should receive ICS-containing controller treatment, to reduce the risk of serious exacerbations
- This is a population-level risk reduction strategy
  - The aim is to reduce the probability of serious adverse outcomes at a population level
  - Individual patients may not necessarily experience (or be aware of) short-term clinical benefit

# Background - the risks of 'mild' asthma

- Patients with apparently mild asthma are still at risk of serious adverse events
- Exacerbation triggers are unpredictable (viruses, pollens, pollution, poor adherence)
- Inhaled SABA has been first-line treatment for asthma for 50 years
  - Dating from an era when asthma was thought to be a disease of bronchoconstriction
  - Its role has been reinforced by rapid relief of symptoms and low cost
  - Starting treatment with SABA trains the patient to regard it as their primary asthma treatment

# Background - the risks of SABA-only treatment

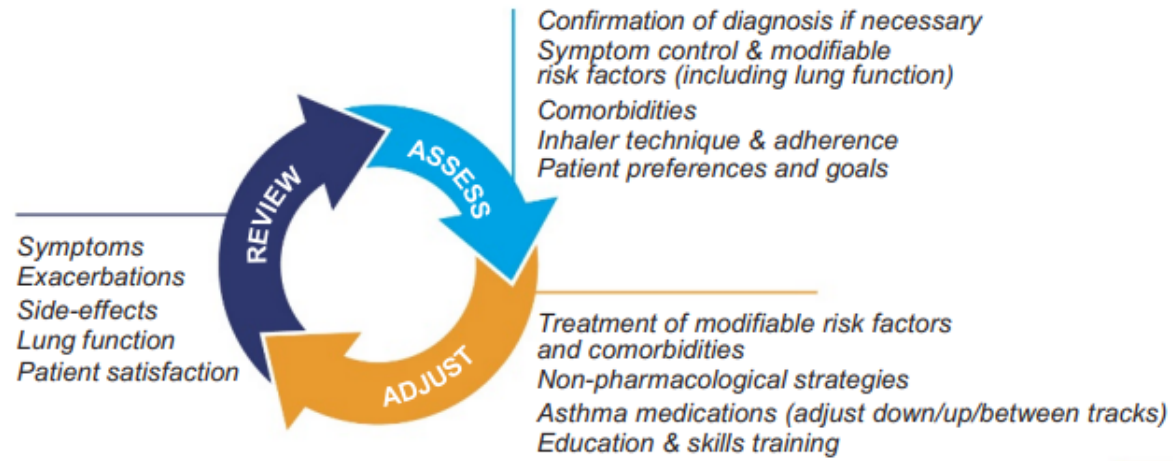
- Background - the risks of SABA-only treatment n Regular use of SABA, even for 1–2 weeks, is associated with adverse effects
  - b-receptor downregulation,
  - decreased bronchoprotection,
  - rebound hyperresponsiveness,
  - decreased bronchodilator response
  - increased allergic response
  - increased eosinophilic airway inflammation

- Hancox, Respir Med 2000
- Aldridge, AJRCCM 2000

# Adults & adolescents 12+ years

## Personalized asthma management

Assess, Adjust, Review  
for individual patient needs



**CONTROLLER** and **PREFERRED RELIEVER**  
(Track 1). Using ICS-formoterol as reliever reduces the risk of exacerbations compared with using a SABA reliever

<b>STEPS 1 – 2</b> As-needed low dose ICS-formoterol	<b>STEP 3</b> Low dose maintenance ICS-formoterol	<b>STEP 4</b> Medium dose maintenance ICS-formoterol	<b>STEP 5</b> Add-on LAMA Refer for phenotypic assessment ± anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R, anti-IL4R Consider high dose ICS-formoterol
RELIEVER: As-needed low-dose ICS-formoterol			

**CONTROLLER** and **ALTERNATIVE RELIEVER**  
(Track 2). Before considering a regimen with SABA reliever, check if the patient is likely to be adherent with daily controller

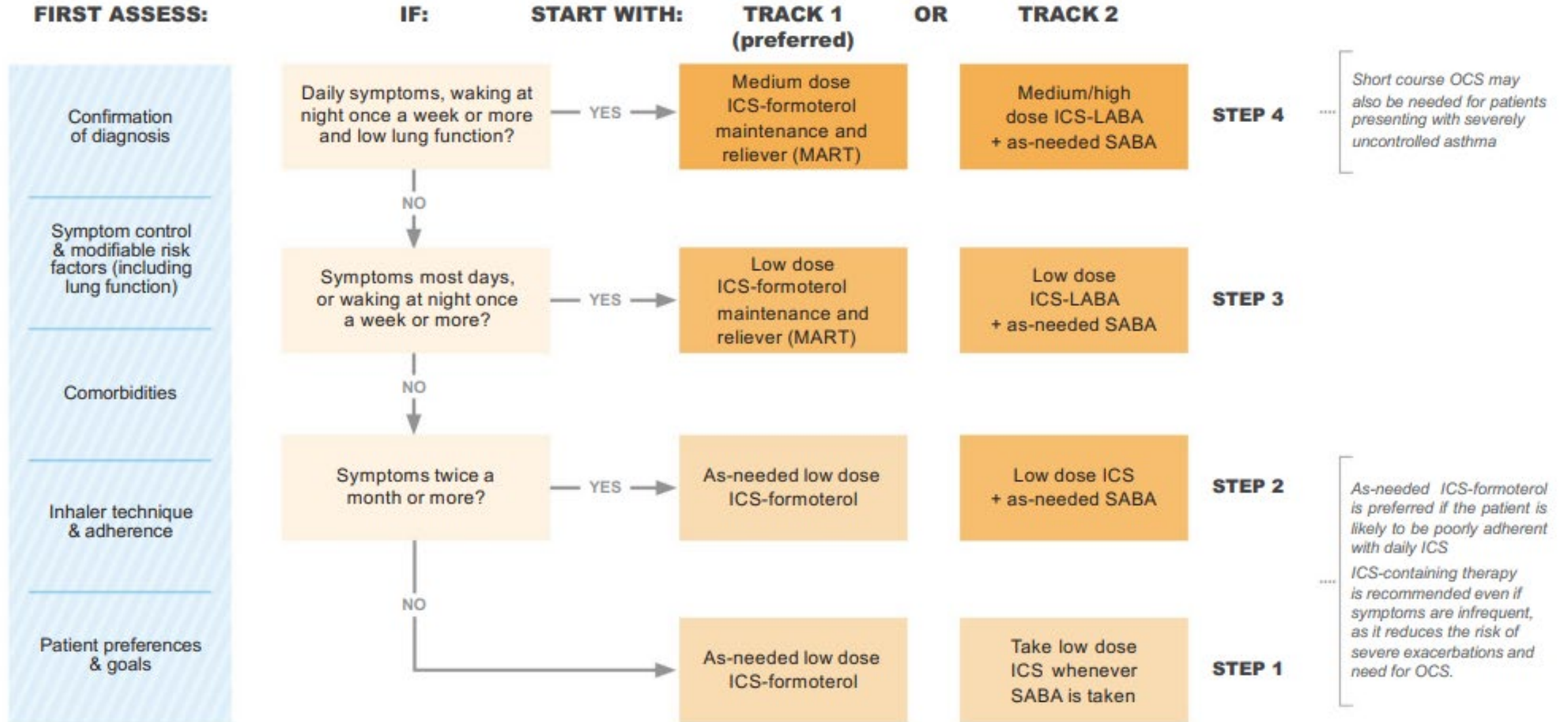
<b>STEP 1</b> Take ICS whenever SABA taken	<b>STEP 2</b> Low dose maintenance ICS	<b>STEP 3</b> Low dose maintenance ICS-LABA	<b>STEP 4</b> Medium/high dose maintenance ICS-LABA	<b>STEP 5</b> Add-on LAMA Refer for phenotypic assessment ± anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R, anti-IL4R Consider high dose ICS-LABA
RELIEVER: As-needed short-acting β <sub>2</sub> -agonist				

Other controller options for either track

	<i>Low dose ICS whenever SABA taken, or daily LTRA, or add HDM SLIT</i>	<i>Medium dose ICS, or add LTRA, or add HDM SLIT</i>	<i>Add LAMA or LTRA or HDM SLIT, or switch to high dose ICS</i>	<i>Add azithromycin (adults) or LTRA; add low dose OCS but consider side-effects</i>
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

# STARTING TREATMENT

in adults and adolescents 12+ years with a diagnosis of asthma



# Other therapies for advanced asthma

- Add-on azithromycin three days a week has been confirmed as an option for consideration after specialist referral
  - Significantly reduces exacerbations in patients taking high dose ICS-LABA
  - Significantly reduces exacerbations in patients with eosinophilic or non-eosinophilic asthma
  - No specific evidence published for azithromycin in patients taking medium dose ICS-LABA
- Before considering add-on azithromycin
  - Check sputum for atypical mycobacteria
  - Check ECG for long QTc (and re-check after a month of treatment)
  - Consider the risk of increasing antimicrobial resistance (population or personal)

# Other therapies for advanced asthma

- Biologic therapy – generally with specialty referral
  - Check (or recheck) blood eosinophils and IgE
- Additional indications for these therapies
  - Omalizumab (monoclonal antibody [MAB] for IgE): chronic idiopathic urticaria, nasal polyposis
  - Mepolizumab (MAB for IL-5): hypereosinophilic syndrome, eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA)
  - Benralizumab (MAB for IL-5): no additional indications at present
  - Dupilumab (MAB for IL-4 and IL-13): chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis; atopic dermatitis

# Asthma and COVID

- Are people with asthma at increased risk of COVID-19, or severe COVID-19?
  - People with asthma do not appear to be at increased risk of acquiring COVID-19, and systematic reviews have not shown an increased risk of severe COVID-19 in people with well-controlled, mild-to-moderate asthma



# Asthma and COVID

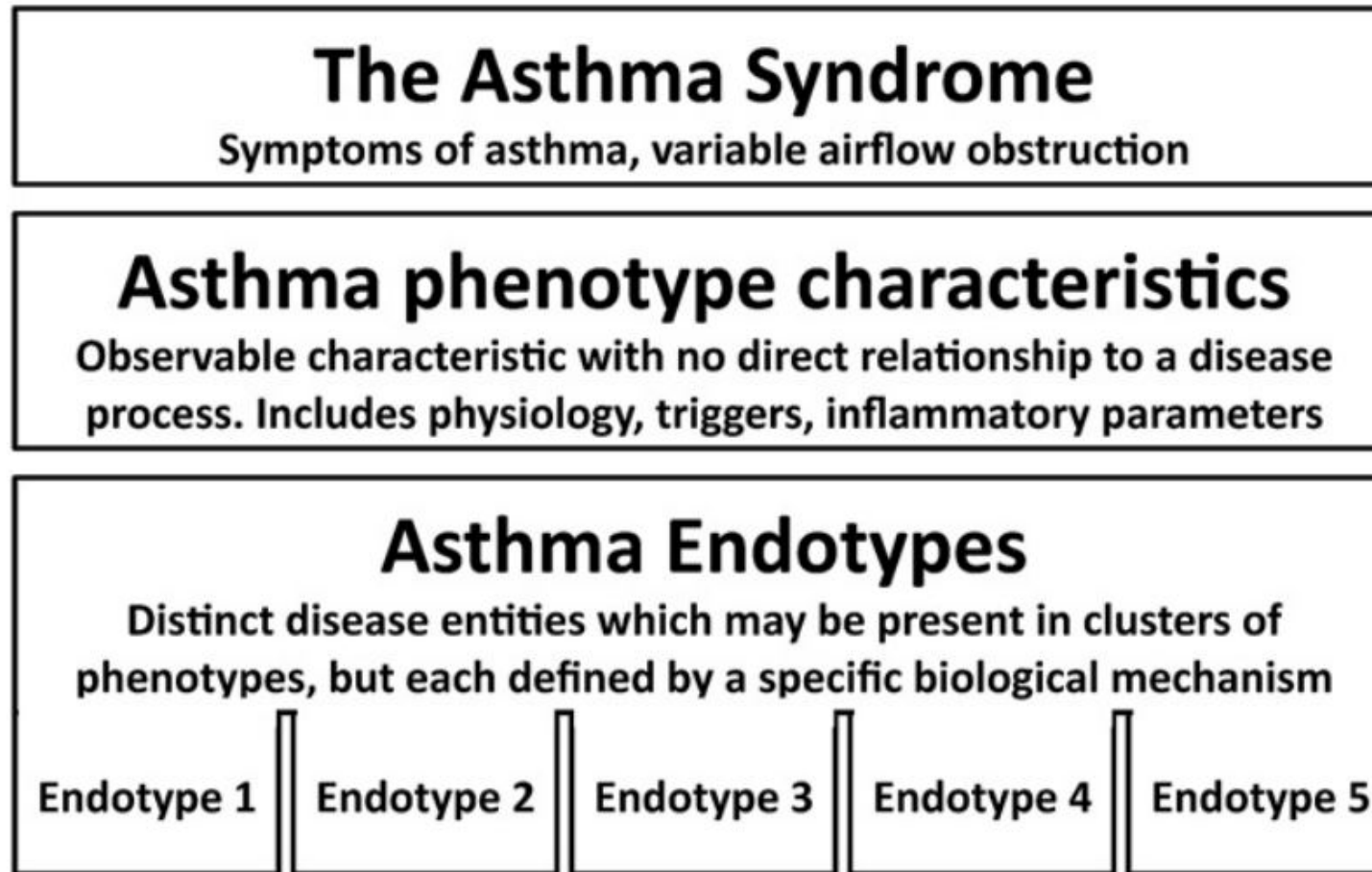
- Are people with asthma at increased risk of COVID-19-related death?
  - Overall, people with well-controlled asthma are not at increased risk of COVID-19-related death
  - However risk of COVID-19 death was increased in people who had recently needed oral corticosteroids (OCS) for their asthma and in hospitalized patients with severe asthma

- Williamson, Nature 2020;
- Liu et al, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, 2021
- Bloom, Lancet Respiratory Med, 2021

# Asthma and COVID

- Management
  - Continue current therapies including inhalers and biologics
  - Possibly avoid nebulizers in communal settings to help avoid spread
- Vaccination – YES
  - Expert opinion recommendation to avoid vaccination and biologic on same day to better help distinguish and adverse event

# Future Directions in Asthma



**FIG 1.** Asthma is made up of different endotypes, each characterized by its pathophysiology.

**TABLE II.** Examples of endotypes that fulfill at least 5 of 7 prespecified disease characteristics

Endotype of the asthma syndrome	Disease characteristics						Proposed mechanism	
	Clinical characteristics	Biomarkers	Lung physiology	Genetics	Histopathology	Epidemiology		
Proposed endotype	History, physical examination, comorbidities	Eosinophilia, FeNO, SPT, IgE	BHR, FEV <sub>1</sub> , reversibility	SNPs and pathways	Tissue/lung characteristics	Prevalence, risk factors, and natural history	Response or lack of response to a specific treatment	Specific biological pathway or process
Aspirin-sensitive asthma	Polyposis, often more severe asthma	Often eosinophilic, increased urinary LTs	Response to aspirin challenge	LT-related gene polymorphisms	Often eosinophilic	Adult onset, severe disease poor prognosis, prevalence 2% to 5%	Responds to anti-LT, especially 5-LO inhibitors	Likely eicosanoids-related
ABPM	Severe, mucus production, adult/long disease duration	Blood eosinophilia, markedly elevated IgE and specific IgE	Less reversible/fixed airflow obstruction	HLA and rare CF variants	Bronchiectasis/ eosinophils and PMNs, bronchocentric granulomatosis	Long duration/ adult onset/poor prognosis	Glucocorticoids, antifungals, possibly omalizumab	Colonization of airways
Allergic asthma (adults)	Allergen associated symptoms/allergic rhinitis	Positive SPT, elevated IgE/ elevated FeNO	Specific allergic bronchospasm	T <sub>H</sub> 2 pathway SNPs	Eosinophils, SBM thickening	Childhood onset, history of eczema	Responds to glucocorticoids and omalizumab, possible IL-4/13 pathway inhibition	T <sub>H</sub> 2-dominant
API-positive preschool wheezer	>3 episodes per year, 1 major or 2 minor characteristics	Often >4% eosinophils in blood (minor), aeroallergen-specific IgE	Potential increased risk of loss of lung function	Unknown	Unknown	Mother or father with asthma	Responds well to daily inhaled glucocorticoids	T <sub>H</sub> 2-dominant
Severe late-onset hypereosinophilic	Severe exacerbations, late-onset disease	Peripheral blood eosinophilia	Bronchodilator-resistant, episodic fall in lung function, steroid-sensitive	No evidence	High blood eosinophil count and eosinophils in tissue	Approximately 20% of severe asthma populations	Glucocorticoid-sensitive, often oral steroid-dependent, responds to anti-IL-5	Nonatopic, otherwise unknown
Asthma in cross-country skiers	Mild to moderate severity, symptoms mostly related to exercise, URTI commonly reported	FeNO normal, normal blood eosinophil count, increased LTE <sub>4</sub> in urine	Methacholine and or exercise positive, usually negative to mannitol or AMP challenge	Unknown	SBM thickening with low-grade noneosinophilic inflammation, increased neutrophils in sputum related to training intensity or duration, BALT in airway mucosa	15% to 25% of elite skiers, highest prevalence among those training in a cold, dry environment	Responds poorly to inhaled glucocorticoid treatment, improves when training intensity diminishes	Cold, dry air induces chronic stress to the airways, subclinical viral infections?

# References

- Lötvall, Jan, et al. "Asthma endotypes: a new approach to classification of disease entities within the asthma syndrome." *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* 127.2 (2011): 355-360.
- Williamson, Elizabeth J., et al. "Factors associated with COVID-19-related death using OpenSAFELY." *Nature* 584.7821 (2020): 430-436.
- Liu, Shuang, et al. "Prevalence of comorbid asthma and related outcomes in COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis." *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice* 9.2 (2021): 693-701.
- Bloom, C., et al. "Risk of adverse outcomes in patients with underlying respiratory conditions hospitalised with COVID-19 using the ISARIC WHO clinical characterisation protocol: a national, multicentre prospective cohort." *Lancet Respir Med* 9.7 (2021): 699-711.
- Hiles, Sarah A., et al. "Does maintenance azithromycin reduce asthma exacerbations? An individual participant data meta-analysis." *European Respiratory Journal* 54.5 (2019).
- Hancox, R. J., et al. "Bronchodilator tolerance and rebound bronchoconstriction during regular inhaled  $\beta$ -agonist treatment." *Respiratory medicine* 94.8 (2000): 767-771.
- ALDRIDGE, RUTH E., et al. "Effects of terbutaline and budesonide on sputum cells and bronchial hyperresponsiveness in asthma." *American journal of respiratory and critical care medicine* 161.5 (2000): 1459-1464.
- Reddel, Helen K., et al. "GINA 2019: a fundamental change in asthma management: treatment of asthma with short-acting bronchodilators alone is no longer recommended for adults and adolescents." *European Respiratory Journal* 53.6 (2019).



# Asthma

Gayle Dichter



**Neighborhood  
Health Plan**

OF RHODE ISLAND™

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island © 2022

Proprietary and Confidential-  
Not for Distribution



## NHPRI Compared to RI

- In 2019 ecoRI news indicated the incidence of Asthma in RI was 10.9%
- In 2021, 9% of NHPRI's population had an asthma diagnosis



# Asthma Population for NHPRI 2021

- 19,600 with a diagnosis of asthma
  - 5,917 Mild Intermittent
  - 2,498 Mild Persistent
  - 2,816 Moderate Persistent
  - 477 Severe Persistent
- 32% Less than 18 Years Old





# Asthma at NHPRI

- Asthma population increased by 11.6% in 2020
- Inpatient stays for asthma decreased by 39% in 2020
- Emergency room visits for asthma decreased by 44% in 2020
- Number of members with at least two outpatient visits for asthma increased by 9% in 2020

\* Note COVID in 2020



# Breathe Easy – Asthma Management

## Goals

- Improve the rates for all HEDIS asthma performance measures by one percentage point.
- Decrease utilization for ER visits/1,000 for asthma exacerbations by 1% for all members.
- Decrease inpatient admissions/1,000 for asthma exacerbations by 1% for all members.
- Increase the percentage of persistent asthmatic members that are appropriately managing their asthma through regular outpatient visits for asthma management (at least two visits per year) by 1%.



# Asthma Program Enrollment

- Passive enrollment/ Opt Out (no Opt Outs in 2020)
- Identification through claims & diagnoses & referrals
- All – welcome Packet and quarterly educational mailings
- High Risk –following inpatient stay for Asthma; home visit and telephonic support

# Enrollment Numbers



High DM -Members Eligible: Members discharged from a (medical) hospital stay with a primary discharge diagnosis of asthma.

High Disease Management-Asthma (High DM) program is highly focused effort, working specifically with members coming out of the hospital after an admission with a primary diagnosis of asthma. The pool of active members is fairly small.

Year	Member's Participation (Numerator)	Enrolled Members (Denominator)	Participation Rate	Triggered for High DM	Enrolled in High DM	High DM Participation Rate
2018	10,945	10,944	99.99%	119	27	22%
2019	10,776	10,776	100%	133	55	41%
2020	12,027	12,027	100%	71	37	52%



# Pharmacy Intervention to Improve Medication Use

Measure	Current Interventions	Status
Asthma Medication Ratio	Telephonic Member Outreach Targeting all Members on a Controller Medication who were Identified as having an Asthma Medication Ratio of <0.50	Ongoing
	Telephonic prescriber outreach for members who have filled >8 fills of a reliever medication without any fills of a controller medication	Ongoing

No program results yet.



# Pharmacy Interventions

Intervention	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
<b>AMR (Asthma Related Measures)</b>						
<b>Total Number of Members Identified</b>	139	463	396		286	
<b>Total Call Attempts (3 attempts occur per member)</b>	303	1036	953	234	57	624
<b>Number of Members Reached</b>	79	191	181	39	17	110
<b>Number of Unreached Attempts</b>	224	845	772	195	40	514
<b>Pharmacy Calls</b>	27	47	73	5	5	32
<b>Prescriber Calls</b>	46	28	123	62	6	25



Questions?



## Contact Information

Gayle Dichter R.Ph., MBA

VP Integrated Care Strategies

[gdichter@nhpri.org](mailto:gdichter@nhpri.org)



# Next Meeting

In lieu of March 4<sup>th</sup>, 12-1PM planning meeting...

**March 11, 2021; 7:30-9:00AM – Breakfast of Champions**

**Featuring some innovative work that is going on in RI  
around improving asthma outcomes**

You will receive a calendar invite and need to register for this meeting.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/march-11-2022-ctc-ri-quarterly-breakfast-of-champions-tickets-267057485127?aff=Meeting>

This meeting is *approved for 1.5 AAFP prescribed credits.*

# Going forward

Planning meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of month, 12-1PM

Move meetings from 12 – 1 to 11:30-12:30?



---

ADVANCING INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

# Stay Safe and Healthy