

DEVELOPMENT OF WEB-BASED TRAINING FOR THE PHARMACIST ASTHMA ENCOUNTER MANAGEMENT APPLICATION

Alaina M. O. Bratt RN, MPH; Benjamin Francisco PNP, PhD, AE-C; George L. Oestreich, Pharm.D., MPA; Kathryn Blake, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP; Asthma Ready® Communities - University of Missouri Health Care, Columbia, Missouri

Background: Asthma Ready® Communities (ARC) in partnership with the Association of Asthma Educators (AAE), national and state experts and Missouri schools of pharmacy collaborated to produce training for the Pharmacist Asthma Encounter Management Application (EMA). The 75 minute web-based training program prepares pharmacists to provide Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR3) - compliant, standardized education for asthma medication related problems (MRP) identified through automated claims analysis.

Audience: Initially, the program is being delivered at no cost to 400 pharmacists in selected Missouri counties to support the Early Childhood Asthma Initiative. Ultimately, the program will be disseminated by the Missouri Pharmacy Association to approximately 9,000 pharmacists in the state of Missouri.

Methods: The web-based training was developed by a statewide, expert panel to promote awareness of EPR3 guidelines and enhance medication therapy management (MTM). Training was designed to support Missouri Medicaid's initiative to reimburse pharmacists for MTM (CPT code 99605). A logic engine (produced by Xerox™) searches for 17 MRP by analyzing Medicaid payments for medications, acute care visits and procedures. Pharmacists are notified of an MRP at the time of dispensing a medication. Pharmacists can then accept or reject a formal MTM opportunity. If accepting the opportunity a pharmacist performs a standardized, problem-specific assessment, provides instruction and counseling by protocol, documents the completed encounter within 90 days and bills the service. The pharmacist may also choose to deliver informal messages without requesting reimbursement. Fifty expert video clips from "Advanced Pharmacology for Asthma Control" (AAE, 2009) are included for quick reference to inhalation devices, medications and EPR3 guidelines.

Conclusion: EMA is an innovative, claims-driven program that facilitates pharmacists' role in addressing asthma medication related problems for a disparate population. This training program promotes effective use of the EMA.