

**Title of Intervention:** Emergency Room Encouragement of Follow-up with Provider

**Intervention Strategies:** Individual Education

**Purpose of the Intervention:** To encourage follow-up with primary care providers after an asthma attack

**Population:** Adults with asthma

**Setting:** Emergency department of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital; health care facility-based

**Partners:** Hospital administrators

**Intervention Description:**

- Individual Education: Participants in the intervention group received a self-contained "fanny pack" of materials designed to enhance the likelihood of scheduling timely follow-up on release from the emergency room. This consisted of a five-day course of oral prednisone, two taxi vouchers specifically designated for transportation to and from their primary care provider, an asthma information card and written instructions for the use of the medications and the vouchers. In addition, participants in the intervention group were contacted by telephone within 48 hours of release from the emergency room and reminded to make an appointment with their primary care provider if they had not already done so.

**Theory:** Not mentioned

**Resources Required:**

- Staff/Volunteers: Facilitators
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Meeting space
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Educational materials, vouchers, medication, fanny pack, telephone
- Evaluation: Questionnaire, access to ER records

**Evaluation:**

- Design: Prospective randomized controlled trial
- Methods and Measures:
  - Questionnaires assessed asthma severity and appointments with primary care providers.
  - Emergency room logs tracked visits.

**Outcomes:**

- Short Term Impact: Participants in the intervention group were more likely to follow-up with their primary care provider.
- Long Term Impact: Not measured

**Maintenance:** Not mentioned

**Lessons Learned:** Providing medication, transportation vouchers and a telephone reminder to make an appointment increased the likelihood that discharged participants obtained primary care provider follow-up.

**Citation(s):**

Baren, J. M., F. S. Shofer, et al. (2001). "A randomized, controlled trial of a simple emergency department intervention to improve the rate of primary care follow-up for patients with acute asthma exacerbations." *Ann Emerg Med* 38(2): 115-22.