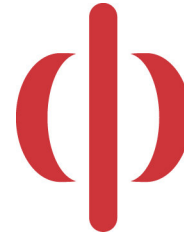


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**RESPIRATORY
HEALTH
ASSOCIATIONSM**
of Metropolitan Chicago

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Media Contacts:

Mary Beth Berkoff (312) 628-0225

Cell (773) 213-4776

Meghan Bradley (312) 628-0250

Cell (773) 209-6704

Many Chicagoans with asthma not receiving adequate care

Asthma Action Plan for Chicago launches campaign to Take Measure, Gain Control.

With the average doctor visit lasting less than ten minutes, it's not surprising that many asthma patients are not receiving adequate care. Children with asthma bear the largest brunt of asthma problems with 62.5% having two or more emergency department visits or hospitalizations in the last 12 months, yet only 53.2% of children with asthma having persistent symptoms reported using inhaled corticosteroid medication prior to their hospital visits.

Asthma should not hinder the quality of life for anyone with asthma—adult or child. Physicians, nurses and healthcare professionals play an important role in establishing and maintaining asthma control.

On May 6, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago and the Asthma Action Plan for Chicago celebrates World Asthma Day 2008 by launching a new asthma campaign, *Take Measure, Gain Control*. This campaign strongly encourages and assists healthcare providers to measure their patients' level of asthma control at every visit.

To promote better measurement, asthma education materials and validated asthma control tools to evaluate asthma control will be delivered to healthcare providers in Metropolitan Chicago. The assessment tools are filled out by the patient or caregiver and consist of a few simple questions that let the healthcare providers know the status of asthma control in their patient. These tools easily establish a protocol for assessing control in patients which is put in their medical record for referral.

“The tools available are simple enough for patients or caregivers to fill out in the waiting room and will take the health providers only a few seconds to know if the patients' asthma is in control,” said Maureen Damitz, Senior Director of Programs at RHAMC. “While these tools are readily available to health providers, they are greatly underutilized.”

The campaign aims to encourage all healthcare providers who see patients with asthma to use a validated assessment tool during every visit to help guide and modify therapy to ensure greater control.

Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) has been a local public health leader since 1906. Today the Association fights lung disease and promotes healthy lungs by supporting research, advocacy, and educational efforts on behalf of individuals and families affected by lung cancer, asthma, COPD (chronic bronchitis and emphysema), and other lung diseases.. For more information, please visit www.lungchicago.org.

Chicago's Lung Health
Leader Since 1906

1440 W. Washington Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60607-1878
Phone: (312) 243-2000
Fax: (312) 243-3954
www.lungchicago.org

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