Comprehensive Asthma Management Program in the San Luis Valley (CAMP SLV)

Background
Evidence suggests that children living in Alamosa and the San Luis Valley experience significant burden and morbidity related to asthma/breathing problems that are costly on an individual and community level. Possible factors contributing to this burden include: difficulty accessing health services or difficulty identifying a medical home for children/families for regular (non-urgent) care; the suboptimal use of well child visits; a lack of specialty care in terms of trained personnel and education programs related to asthma/lung health; obstacles faced for successful asthma management in schools; and the lack of infrastructure for coordinating communication and care for children with asthma among families, schools and providers. The purpose of this proposal is to develop and implement a school-based integrated and coordinated comprehensive asthma management program in the SLV (CAMP SLV) among students with asthma and their parents/guardians and health providers and school personnel.

Program Goal
To improve asthma control and reduce the burden and morbidity associated with asthma for children/youth living in the San Luis Valley (SLV).

Program Objectives
- An integrated school based system for determining and monitoring asthma prevalence, severity and control and asthma care delivery will be in place for Alamosa Public Schools.
- The CAMP SLV school-based program will be implemented Alamosa Public Schools.
- A chart review at SLVRMC for asthma to identify practice gaps and potential reasons for high admission rates will be completed to provide feedback to health care providers and inform continuing educational activities.
- By April 2012, the practice patterns or approaches of health care providers in the SLV for patients with asthma will be more consistent with the NHLBI asthma guidelines, particularly use of corticosteroids, asthma action plans and follow-up.
- A second chart review of emergency department visits and hospitalizations at SLV Regional Medical Center for asthma will be completed in 2012 to determine practice patterns, provide feedback to health care providers and inform evaluation of continuing education activities in years 1-3.

The Program
The Comprehensive Asthma Management Program for the San Luis Valley or CAMP SLV is based on multiple sources of evidence that includes the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Expert Panel Report: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma and the CDC's Healthy Youth: Addressing Asthma within a Coordinated School Health Program.

CAMP SLV involves and relies on multiple partners in the community for success, namely children/youth and their families, schools, and health providers. Several components of the intervention will occur at school and involve the school nurse. These partners will work to develop and provide an integrated and coordinated comprehensive asthma management program for the SLV. The ultimate goal is to improve asthma control thereby reducing the burden and morbidity associated with asthma in children and youth. CAMP SLV is comprehensive as it includes all four components of the NHLBI asthma guidelines for controlling and managing asthma (assess and monitor asthma, provide asthma education for partnerships, control environmental factors, and use of appropriate therapy) and the CDC’s elements for creating an asthma friendly school using a coordinated school health program involving the following elements.
Evidence suggests that children living in Alamosa and the San Luis Valley experience significant burden and morbidity related to asthma/breathing problems that are costly on an individual and community level. The community is at-risk of health disparities for many reasons: high poverty levels, high Hispanic population, rural location, and medically underserved. The purpose of this proposal is to build community capacity to develop and implement a school-based integrated and coordinated comprehensive asthma management program in the SLV for students with asthma, their parents/guardians, health providers, and school personnel. It is anticipated that CAMP SLV will improve asthma control for childhood asthma thereby reducing the burden and morbidity associated with asthma and improve quality of life.

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