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## **Pharmacists' Role in Asthma Care: A Message from the Ohio Department of Health**

Pharmacists play a crucial role in asthma care by providing education, counseling, medication management, and support to patients with asthma. Their involvement helps ensure that asthma patients can effectively manage their condition, improve their quality of life, and minimize the risk of asthma exacerbations. Proper inhaler technique is essential for getting the full benefit of asthma medications. Pharmacists can demonstrate and teach patients how to use various inhaler devices correctly, ensuring that the medication reaches the lungs effectively. Furthermore, pharmacists can monitor patients' asthma control and help identify any issues that may be affecting their management.

The Ohio Department of Health Asthma Program wants to share with Ohio pharmacists asthma-related continuing education opportunities outlined in this newsletter.

Pharmacists often work closely with physicians and other healthcare providers to ensure a comprehensive approach to asthma care. They can communicate medication changes, treatment adjustments, and patient progress to ensure coordinated care. Moreover, it is possible to recommend over-the-counter products, such as allergy medications or non-prescription inhalers, to help manage asthma symptoms or minimize triggers.

According to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) [Asthma Disparities Report](#), in 2021, approximately 9.68% of adults reported having asthma. Both racial and gender disparities continue to exist within these populations in Ohio. Also, about 5.87% of children reported having asthma. Both racial and gender disparities continue to exist within these populations in Ohio.

- Black children experienced asthma-related inpatient hospitalizations at a rate of almost 6.5 times that of their White counterparts.
- Black children experienced asthma-related deaths at a rate of approximately 14 times that of their White counterparts.
- Females were found to have higher rates of asthma prevalence, asthma-related emergency department visits, asthma-related inpatient hospitalizations, and asthma-related deaths when compared to adult males.

The ODH collaborated with its Asthma Advisory Council to develop the [Ohio Strategic Plan for Asthma](#). The plan was developed with careful consideration to identify goals and activities that were most important, feasible, and impactful to reduce disparities and increase the quality of life of children in Ohio with asthma. This plan outlines work for the next five years and highlights how activities will be implemented with key partners.

Pharmacists are experts in medications, including those used to treat asthma. They can review a patient's medication regimen, assess its appropriateness, and make recommendations or adjustments as needed. This includes ensuring patients are using their inhalers or other devices correctly, which is crucial for the proper delivery of asthma medications. Stock inhalers, a single albuterol inhaler used with a disposable, valved-holding chamber give schools another option to respond to respiratory emergencies. School nurses have reached out to ODH Asthma Program, expressing interest in partnering with pharmacists to help with stock albuterol and spacer support. Stock albuterol inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors are critical for schools. As they truly help ensure that students are safe and healthy within their school environment.

In summary, pharmacists play a multifaceted role in asthma care, ranging from medication management and education to counseling and collaboration with healthcare providers. Their expertise in medications and patient care helps improve asthma management and overall patient outcomes.

**What is P.L.A.N.?**

The Pharmacists' Learning Assistance Network (P.L.A.N.<sup>®</sup>) is a continuing pharmacy education information service provided to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians through Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). P.L.A.N.<sup>®</sup> allows you to find continuing education activities by:

- Selecting your profession (pharmacist or pharmacy technician).
- Selecting the type of activity (knowledge, application, or certificate program) you want to attend.
- Choosing your activity format (home, study or live).
- Choosing your topic designator.
- Selecting activity dates and/or locations to suit your schedule.
- Identifying continuing education activities from a specific organization.

When searching for CEs using P.L.A.N., the results that populate will be from ACPE Accredited Providers. If you would like to take a course that is listed, you will need to reach out to the provider directly. <https://plan.acpe-accredit.org/>

**Course Title: SMARTen Up: Asthma Management Guidelines**

UAN/CPN: 0009-0000-22-023-H01-P

CEUs: 2 (0.2)

Activity Type: Application

Expiration Date: 04/19/2025

Provider: University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy

**Course Title: Inhalers: A Demonstration is Worth One Thousand Words**

UAN/CPN: 0009-0000-22-045-H01-P

CEUs: 2 (0.2)

Activity Type: Application

Expiration Date: 09/15/2025

Provider: University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy

**Course Title: Updates in Asthma Management**

UAN/CPN: 0107-0000-22-151-H01-P

CEUs: 1 (0.1)

Activity Type: Application

Expiration Date: 05/01/2025

Provider: CEimpact

**Course Title: Pharmacotherapy Literature Study Module 2C: Allergy, Asthma and Immunology**

UAN/CPN: 0204-0000-22-937-H01-P

CEUs: 5 (0.5)

Activity Type: Application

Expiration Date: 10/19/2025

Provider: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

**Course Title: Breathing Easier: Updates in Guideline Recommendations and Emerging Pharmacotherapy for Treatment of Asthma**

UAN/CPN: 0430-0000-22-090-H01-P

CEUs: 1.5 (0.15)

Activity Type: Application

Expiration Date: 08/30/2025

Provider: Postgraduate Healthcare Education, LLC

**Course Title: Update on the Management of Asthma**

UAN/CPN: 0430-0000-22-094-H01-P

CEUs: 2 (0.2)

Activity Type: Knowledge

Expiration Date: 07/31/2024

Provider: Postgraduate Healthcare Education, LLC

**Course Title: Dexamethasone Compared to Prednisone for the Treatment of Children With Acute Asthma Exacerbations**

UAN/CPN: 0431-0000-22-005-H04-P

CEUs: 1 (0.1)

Activity Type: Knowledge

Expiration Date: 09/12/2025

Provider: Lippincott Continuing Medical Education Institute, Inc.

**Course Title: Pediatric Critical Care**

UAN/CPN: 0582-0000-23-014-L01-P

CEUs: 0.75 (0.075)

Activity Type: Knowledge

Expiration Date: 06/15/2026  
Provider: Intermountain Health

**Course Title: Hot Topics in Ambulatory Care: New Asthma Guidelines, Migraine Prophylaxis including CGRP antagonists, and COVID-19 for the Primary Care Provider**

UAN/CPN: 0741-0000-21-002-H01-P  
CEUs: 5 (0.5)  
Activity Type: Application  
Expiration Date: 04/22/2024  
Provider: University Learning Systems, Inc.

**Course Title: Hot Topics in Ambulatory Care: New Asthma Guidelines, Migraine Prophylaxis including CGRP antagonists, and COVID-19 for the Primary Care Provider**

UAN/CPN: 0741-0000-21-005-H01-P  
CEUs: 5 (0.5)  
Activity Type: Application  
Expiration Date: 06/10/2024  
Provider: University Learning Systems, Inc.

**Course Title: Hot Topics in Ambulatory Care: New Asthma Guidelines, Migraine Prophylaxis including CGRP antagonists, and COVID-19 for the Primary Care Provider**

UAN/CPN: 0741-0000-21-011-H01-P  
CEUs: 5 (0.5)  
Activity Type: Application  
Expiration Date: 10/28/2024  
Provider: University Learning Systems, Inc.

**Course Title: Polypharmacy in the Elderly, Asthma Guidelines, Anticoagulation Overview**

**UAN/CPN: 0741-0000-21-014-H01-P**  
CEUs: 5 (0.5)  
Activity Type: Application  
Expiration Date: 12/09/2024  
Provider: University Learning Systems, Inc.

**Course Title: New Updates to Asthma Treatment**

UAN/CPN: 0798-0000-22-140-H01-P  
CEUs: 0.25 (0.025)  
Activity Type: Knowledge  
Expiration Date: 05/20/2025  
Provider: PharmCon

**Course Title: Asthma, Allergies & Eczema**

UAN/CPN: 0826-9999-21-003-L01-P  
CEUs: 2 (0.2)  
Activity Type: Knowledge  
Expiration Date: 02/01/2024  
Provider: MED2000, Inc.

**Course Title: Asthma Management - What's New?**

UAN/CPN: 0837-9999-21-084-H01-P  
CEUs: 1 (0.1)  
Activity Type: Knowledge  
Expiration Date: 05/20/2024  
Provider: University of New England School of Pharmacy

**Course Title: The Pharmacy Technician Role in a Medicaid ACO: Leading the asthma medication ratio (AMR) quality measure**

UAN/CPN: 0837-9999-21-106-H01-P  
CEUs: 1 (0.1)  
Activity Type: Knowledge  
Expiration Date: 05/20/2024  
Provider: University of New England School of Pharmacy

## How to Get Involved Now

1. [Sign Up for the ODH Asthma List Serv.](#)
2. [Sign up for the Asthma Collaborative Improvement Committee.](#)

3. Establish management and support systems for patients who have asthma.
4. Provide appropriate connections to patients who suffer from mental health conditions.
5. Provide asthma education and awareness programs for patients.
6. Educate patients on safe and healthy environments to reduce asthma triggers.

## **Additional Asthma Resources**

- [Asthma Action Plan](#)
  - [Asthma Basics Course](#)
  - [American Academy of Family Pediatrics](#)
  - [Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma Online Course](#)
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