Pediatric Asthma: An Emergency Department Assessment Tool

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**Background:** Asthma is the most common chronic pediatric illness. Thirty percent of asthma patients seek asthma care in the ED instead of their primary care provider (PCP).

**Methods:** This was a quality improvement project for ED providers. The Pediatric Asthma Control and Communication Instrument for the Emergency Department (PACCI-ED) is a patient/caretaker survey the ED provider utilized during the assessment of the pediatric asthma patient with a known diagnosis of asthma presenting with respiratory complaints. Patients assessed with the PACCI-ED were eligible for rapid medical evaluation (RME). It has been proven that the PACCI-ED allowed providers to more accurately identify children with poorly controlled and worsening asthma.

**Conclusion:** Implementation of a clear and concise assessment tool for pediatric asthma patients can assist in accurate evaluation of asthma control and assist the ED provider in providing thorough care.