

## **Funding from CareSource will secure continuation of Asthma Pilot Project**

With the Chapter Quality Network (CQN) Asthma Pilot Project winding down, the Ohio AAP was recently awarded a \$75,000 Signature Grant from the CareSource Foundation to support a second wave of quality improvement work for Ohio's pediatric asthma patients.

The CareSource Foundation is part of CareSource, a non-profit, public-sector managed care company, which has become one of the largest and fastest growing Medicaid managed care plans in the nation.

“CareSource is committed to giving back and supporting health initiatives that impact our members,” said Pamela Morris, President and CEO, CareSource. “As a health plan that serves the underserved, we understand the emotional and financial burden that is placed on families caring for children with asthma, and we're glad to be able to support this pilot that improves the quality of care.”

In the first wave of the CQN Asthma Pilot Project, 13 practices with nearly 80 physicians worked to improve patient care. An additional 15-20 practices will be recruited to participate in the second wave of the project, which is expected to start in early 2011.

Participating practices have steadily improved patient care over the past 11 months of data collection. During baseline data collection in October 2009, a meager 37% of patients were receiving “optimal asthma care” at their visits. Optimal care is defined as that which includes: use of a validated instrument to assess a patient's asthma control; a stepwise approach is used to identify treatment options, or adjust current therapy; a flu shot, or flu shot recommendation, for all patients 6 months of age or older; and a written asthma action plan.

For the past five months, the optimal care measure has held steady at about 80%. Two additional measures CareSource has studied are the percentage of patients with one or more asthma-related Emergency Department or Urgent Care visits within the past 12 months, and the percentage of patients with one or more asthma-related hospitalizations within the past 12 months. Both measures have seen steady decreases, especially in the past six months. CareSource reports a decrease of approximately 30% in both measures from their membership at the participating practices.

For more information on the second wave of the CQN Asthma Pilot Project, contact Heather Hall at (614) 846-6258 or [hhall@ohioaap.org](mailto:hhall@ohioaap.org).