



# ACU Professional Training Program

**Building an Asthma Care Home: Engaging Clinicians, Patients and Caregivers in Comprehensive Asthma Management**

## Program Overview

Primary care clinicians working with vulnerable populations frequently see patients with acute exacerbations of asthma. This 90-minute course focuses on incorporating environmental trigger control into a comprehensive asthma management plan in order to decrease asthma episodes. Developed by a national expert panel, it is intended for health care providers who work with at risk populations in primary care settings. Training is available in English and Spanish, on-site or over the Internet. Continuing education credits are available.

### The course covers:

- The National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) 2007 National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Guidelines
- Incorporating environmental asthma trigger assessment into practice
- Strategies to reduce exposures to indoor air pollutants
- Integrating health education with patients with limited English proficiency and low health literacy
- Asthma self management tools
- Use of health information technology to prompt adherence to national clinical guidelines, collect patient and population health data, educate patients on self-management, and facilitate quality improvement activities

## Program Goals

The goal of this program is to improve the quality of comprehensive asthma care by training health care providers to incorporate culturally and linguistically appropriate education on environmental asthma trigger management consistent with the 2007 National Asthma Education and Prevention Program guidelines. Increasing patients' and caregivers' knowledge about controlling environmental triggers and providing them with practical tools to maintain a healthy indoor environment is critical to effective care management. Engaging patients and their families in this way ultimately leads to healthier homes and communities and fewer asthma attacks.

## Program Objectives

### Participants will:

1. Describe the importance of including an environmental trigger assessment within a comprehensive evidence based asthma care plan.
2. List appropriate strategies to teach patients and families about reducing and managing environmental asthma triggers.
3. Discuss the implications of low health literacy and limited English proficiency in asthma disparities.

## About ACU

Established in 1996, the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) is a non-profit, transdisciplinary organization of health professionals, advocates, and health care organizations united in a common mission to improve the health of America's underserved populations and to enhance the development and support of the health care clinicians serving these populations. Our membership includes individuals representing 18 professional disciplines as well as community clinics, health care organizations and professional societies.



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4. Identify low-literacy and language-appropriate materials and resources available for patients and family members for asthma self management and education.
5. Describe the benefits of using health information technology to support comprehensive asthma management within the Patient Centered Medical Home Model.

## Recommended Audience

Health care providers who work with at risk populations, including primary care clinicians, nurses, health educators, social workers, support staff, school nurses, community health workers, health coaches and "promotoras de salud."

Trainings can be tailored to meet the needs of the audience and are available in both English and Spanish, on-site (live) or through a web-based platform.

## Continuing Education Information

This continuing nursing education program gives 1.5 hours of continuing education for nurses and Nurse Practitioners

The Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Center on Accreditation. Successful completion of this program includes participation in the 90 minute lecture session, completion of the evaluation and registration.

This live activity, Building an Asthma Care Home: Engaging Clinicians, Patients, and Caregivers in Comprehensive Asthma Management, has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 1.25 Prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Cost

This training is offered free of charge. Participants may incur a charge for continuing professional education credits from the accrediting organization.

## This program has been presented to (partial list)

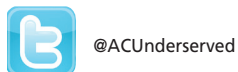
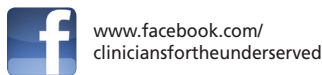
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network
- Meharry Medical College family practice residents
- Kansas School Nurses Association
- National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
- Wisconsin Primary Care Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Maine Primary Care Association
- Fight Asthma Milwaukee
- Asthma and Allergy Network/Mothers of Asthmatics
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
- Birth-to-Three Institute
- American College of Preventive Medicine

### Contact

For more information or to schedule training, contact Lois Wessel, CFNP, lwessel@clinicians.org



[www.clinicians.org](http://www.clinicians.org)  
703-442-5318



This training program was developed with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cooperative Agreement No. XA-83461201. A national advisory committee with expertise in community-based primary care, asthma disease management and prevention, cultural and linguistic competence, indoor air quality and public health law guided the development of the curriculum.