

(Pending Funding)

Web-base QI and CPD package for GPs

Summary

A web-based, interactive learning application on the assessment, diagnosis and management of asthma, with associated electronic education resources e.g. CDROMs, will be developed for use by clinicians (e.g. doctors, doctors-in-training, nurses and asthma educators). Best practice guidelines in the assessment, diagnosis and management of asthma will be represented and stored in an online knowledge base, using the methodology and generic tools developed by the investigators for falls prevention - Falls Risk Assessment and Management System (FRAMS). Details of FRAMS can be viewed at: <http://www.falls.unimelb.edu.au>. This program is also designed to encourage clinicians and students to reflect on their current practice and competencies at a time and place convenient to them. This interactive and reflective learning will improve doctors' knowledge and competencies in asthma diagnosis and management across the whole health care system. Clinicians will be eligible for RACGP QACPD points or RACP MOP points.

This Asthma Education Program incorporates the following phases:

a. Clinicians assess their needs, attitudes and knowledge online (baseline)

Clinicians will complete online questionnaires on asthma knowledge, attitudes, diagnosis and management. The content is based on our current work on local adaptation of asthma education and best practice guidelines developed by the National Asthma Council and the Royal Children's Hospital. Details of this project can be examined at: "http://www.asthma.unimelb.edu.au"

Clinician information collected via the online forms will be compared, in aggregated and individual format, against generic knowledge and best practice guidelines.

The information collected from the electronic form will be limited to the desktop systems, avoiding privacy and security issues associated with information exchange across the Internet. Privacy and security arrangements for the desktop system are easier to manage.

b. Clinicians reflect their performance against a gold standard online

Clinicians will be provided individual feedback and facilitated to reflect on their answers against the gold standards, as detailed in the National Asthma Council and the Royal Children's Hospital best practice guidelines.

This feedback process will assist the identification of gaps in diagnosis, management and medication devices skills and mechanisms of the "3+ visit" plans.

c. Clinicians assess their needs, attitudes and knowledge online again

The above process (a & b) is repeated after 6 months to examine for any changes in knowledge and attitudes. This will be the basis for a pre- and post-intervention evaluation of the Program.

User satisfaction with the program will also be examined with a view to improving the program.