

Asthma: Public Health Crisis

When a recent study verified that fact that environment factors can impact epigenetic activities and change gene expression¹, the decision was made to use asthma as an example of how clinical value analysis could and should become a tool to address prevention - treatment - cures for chronic diseases **when a cause can verified.**

Primary Cause of Asthma

Supported by hyperlinks, the following is provided for discussion purposes to verify the element nickel is irrefutably the primary cause of the disease and driven by environmental factors.

<http://www.mcfip.net/upload/Non-labor%20Expense%20Reduction%20-%20Asthma%20x.pdf>

Prevalance Data² (Refer to footnote for additional data)

Statistics from 2015 ideicate 7.8% of the US population has asthma. A 2008 study identified “less than half of people with asthma reported being taught how to avoid triggers. Almost half (48%) of adults who were taught how to avoid triggers did not follow most of this advice.”³

Healthcare Consequences

While the consequence on the healthcare industry due to readmission of children is startling is startling⁴, the magnitude. With the primary cause of asthma being known, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Children’s Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) must address initiatives to prevent readmissions for children and adults.

Commercial insurance companies increase rates to compensate for losses. In our opinion, the brunt of the cost impacts of asthma and readmission rates falls onto companies that utilize employer self-insured healthcare plans or insurers that offer managed care plans.

A large percentage of adults have not followed advice to avoid “triggers.” In our opinion, with 8% of Americans impacted by the disease, strategies that include but are not limited to employer-centered programs must be initiated. Also, expanding the knowledge of “triggers” must occur; e.g. avoiding hydrogenated food, ensuring that schools do not allow A. fumigitis to grow in summer months to avoid “back to school syndrome”, minimizing exposure to diesel fuel fumes because nickel is a catalyst for its manufacture, etc..

Consequences of asthma even are far reaching from the aspect of clinical care because oral (systemic) corticosteroids as opposed to inhalers have been proven to increase bone fracture risks in children.

Summary

Asthma is merely one example of many chronic diseases where causes can be verified. MCFIP’s findings that can be used as part of clinical value analysis to reduce non-labor expanses for employers that use self-insured healthcare plans by as much as 35% are outlined in the following link.

[http://www.mcfip.net/upload/HC%20NewCo%20Model%20\(Rv\).pdf](http://www.mcfip.net/upload/HC%20NewCo%20Model%20(Rv).pdf)

¹ <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-02-epigenetics-reveals-environmental-gene-behaviour.html>

² https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/most_recent_data.htm

³ <http://www.aaaai.org/about-aaaai/newsroom/asthma-statistics>

⁴ https://eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2018-02/cnhs-dst020918.php