

**Topic: In support of increasing education and awareness of asthma to parents to aid the reduction of hospital emergency room visits.**

**Submitted By: California State University, Fresno Nursing Students**

**Author: Laquisha Bollman**

WHEREAS, “approximately 5,500 persons die from asthma each year, and rates have increased over the past 20 years” (Redd, 2002, p. 557); and

WHEREAS, “national rates (of asthma) are about 5% to 7%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute estimates that 20.3 million Americans had asthma in 2001, and 6.3 million of them were children” (Roberts, 2003, pp. 118-119); and

WHEREAS, “although asthma is often considered to be a mild chronic illness treatable with ambulatory care, we found that 43 percent of its economic impact was associated with emergency room use, hospitalization, and death” (Weiss, Gergen, & Hodgson, 1992, pp. 862-866); and

WHEREAS, “each year hospital emergency rooms handle approximately 2 million visits for asthma attacks” (The Advertising Council, 2003); and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) states that between 15 percent and 17 percent of all emergency room pediatric visits are asthma-related (Melville, 2001); and

WHEREAS, regular use of inhaled corticosteroids (IC) and utilization of an allergy specialist are key components in asthma treatment schedules to reduce the likelihood of emergency room visits” (Ruff, 2003); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) support increasing education and awareness of asthma to parents during emergency room visits and encourage medical facility personnel, including administrators, of the importance of studying and tracking asthma relapses within the Emergency Room (ER) with regard to time between exacerbation’s; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA place an emphasis on doctor referrals to allergy specialists

during asthma related ER visits by publication of articles in *Imprint* and other NSNA influenced literature; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage the inclusion of education and awareness to nurses and nursing students regarding the increase of asthma related ER visits and of the importance of educating parents of children with asthma to aid in ER visit reduction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED), Allergy & Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics (AAN-MA), National Association of School Nurses (NASN), DC Asthma Coalition via the American Lung Association of D.C., Association of Asthma Educators (AAE), National Jewish Medical and Research Center, Emergency Nurses Association, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, American Nurses Association, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Redd, S.C. (2002, August). Asthma in the United States: Burden and Current Theories.

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Roberts, K. (2003, November). Treating Asthma in the Zone. American Journal of Nursing, 103 (11), 118-119.

Ruff, M.E. (2003, Spring). Treatment by an allergy specialist reduces emergency room visits for asthma. Allergy and Asthma Advocate [Online]. Available:

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Weiss, K.B., Gergen, P.J., & Hodgson, T.A. (1992, March 26). An economic evaluation of asthma in the United States. The New England Journal of Medicine, 326 (13), 862-866.

## **Contact List**

### **The DC Asthma Coalition**

c/o **American Lung Association of DC** .  
475 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
Tel: 202.682.5864  
Fax: 202.682.5874  
Write to the DC Asthma Coalition

### **Association of Asthma Educators**

1215 Anthony Avenue  
Columbia, SC 29201-1701

888-988-7747

### **National Jewish Medical and Research Center**

1400 Jackson Street  
Denver, CO 80206

Telephone: 1-800-222-LUNG (5864).  
or (outside the United States) 303-388-4461 (7700)  
<http://nationaljewish.org/>

### **Emergency Nurses Association Headquarters**

915 Lee Street  
Des Plaines, IL 60016-6569

800/900-9659  
<http://www.ena.org/>

### **American Association of Colleges of Nursing**

One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530  
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 463-6930 - Fax: (202) 785-8320  
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/index.htm>

### **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION for ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING**

PO Box 3188  
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Phone: 614-659-0862  
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<http://www.noadn.org/index.shtml>

**ASTHMA & ALLERGY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA (AAFA)**

1233 20th Street, NW, Suite 402  
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 800-7-ASTHMA (800-727-8462) or 202/466-7643  
Fax: 202/466-8940

**AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR EOSINOPHILIC DISORDERS (APFED)**

3419 Whispering Way Drive  
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Web site: [www.apfed.org](http://www.apfed.org)

**ALLERGY & ASTHMA NETWORK/MOTHERS OF ASTHMATICS (AAN-MA)**

AANMA is dedicated to helping people affected by allergies and asthma through education, advocacy, community outreach, and research. AANMA offers educational materials, monthly award-winning publications, a toll-free help line, Hispanic outreach, and a Website, [www.breatherville.org](http://www.breatherville.org). Visit or call 1-800-878-4403.

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## **ESTIMATED COST OF IMPLEMENTATION**

Document Size	2 pages	
Photocopy Costs:	$\$.10/\text{page} \times 2 \text{ pages} = .20/\text{copy} \times 10 \text{ mailings}$	2.00
Postage Costs:	$\$.37/\text{copy} \times 10 \text{ mailings}$	3.70
Envelopes:	$\$.05/\text{envelope} \times 10 \text{ envelopes}$	.50
Total Cost:		\$6.20

## **ABSTRACT**

Asthma is considered to be a mild chronic illness treatable with ambulatory care; however, 43 percent of its economic impact was associated with emergency room use, hospitalization, and death. In 2001 there were 20.3 million Americans that had asthma and 6.3 million of them were children. In fact the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology states that between 15 percent and 17 percent of all emergency room pediatric visits are asthma-related (Melville, 2001). Asthma is becoming an epidemic and we should recognize that many of these visits to the ER are because parents don't have the knowledge they need to properly take care of their child's' asthma. With proper education parents will be able to give their child(ren) the proper treatment he or she needs. The statistics above show that many parents are not being educated about asthma. I feel if we educated parents about asthma during an asthma related emergency room visit they would be more likely to control their child's' asthma and thus reduce the number of hospital emergency room visits.

**Submitted: February 7, 2004**

**ATTN: Jenny Strode – Legislative Director**

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**Submitted:**

- ❑ Abstract
- ❑ Resolution
- ❑ Bibliography
- ❑ Contact List
- ❑ Estimated Cost of Implementation