

Feb 2008



### Upcoming PAP Events:

- \* March 29 Present at PASNAP conference
- \* April 10 PAP Spring Meeting
- \* May 6 national World Asthma Day
- \* June 19 Asthma Champions conference

Know of any upcoming events? Send them to us! Contact Sara at [SLewis@lunginfo.org](mailto:SLewis@lunginfo.org)

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## Partners Sharing

### Featured Partner...

#### School Nurses

Nancy Kaminski of Brentwood educational facility is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners and has been a practicing school nurse for 15 years. As a nurse she sees many asthma related cases during her daily work treating children who are sick. Nancy feels that having asthma awareness for a school nurse is of high importance since asthma related issues are one of the most common and chronic issues both seen and dealt with as a school nurse. So how many kids are seen each year with asthma related issues? "It is hard to tell", said Kaminski, "many kids have asthma but you do not see all of them." This makes it hard to estimate the number of cases within schools.

When asked how much knowledge she felt her colleagues had about asthma she said asthma was a pretty well covered and prominent topic in continuing education programs so she felt confident in the amount of knowledge her colleagues had. To continue adding to this knowledge, PAP members will be presenting on asthma at the Pennsylvania School Nurses and Practitioners (PASNAP) conference at the end of March.

Kaminski has received training through various continuing education offerings given by organizations such as the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), whose mission statement is to "improve the health and educational success of children and youth by developing and providing leadership to advance school nursing practice." Through this Nancy has become a presenter of managing asthma trigger programs that were developed in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Although it is hard to pinpoint the exact number of cases seen, it is known that

asthma is not a rare issue seen by school nurses. With so many affected by the disease it is important for school nurses to be aware of how to properly treat and react to an asthmatic. It is vital to keep in mind the role of school nurses, such as Nancy Kaminski, play in the fight against asthma.

If you would like to know the latest information on the prevalence of asthma in schools within your local area, look at the [2006 Asthma Burden Report](#). You can find this resource online any time at the Department of Health's website under "asthma".

#### Truck Idling Restrictions Pass PA Senate

Truck idling has long been a source of problems within PA, which contributes to poor air quality. The Senate approved legislation the week of Feb 9, that would restrict how long trucks are allowed to idle. The Senate bill would limit idling to five minutes an hour, with exceptions granted through May 1, 2010 for periods when temperatures are under 40 degrees or above 75 degrees.

As with all politics there are positives and negatives. The bad news for the legislation is politics. Democrats, who hold the majority in the House and whose leaders support plans to toll Interstate 80, reportedly are reluctant to run any transportation-related bills for fear of giving tolling opponents the opportunity to attach amendments. The good news is that a regulation mirroring the legislation has been proposed by the state Environmental Quality Board and is getting public hearings this month.

Truck idling is far from the only air quality issue, but the large presence of trucking and warehousing in PA make it a critical one for Pennsylvania.

# Upcoming Trainings...

- ◆ Open Airways for Schools (OAS) facilitator training *SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!*
  - ◆ March 8 in Scotch Plains NJ, contact Pamela at [pjohnson@lunginfo.org](mailto:pjohnson@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 27 in Plymouth Meeting, contact Maura at [mhaslam@lunginfo.org](mailto:mhaslam@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ May 22 in Philadelphia area, contact Rachelle at [rsmith@lunginfo.org](mailto:rsmith@lunginfo.org)
- ◆ Breathe Well Live Well (BWLW) facilitator training *SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!*
  - ◆ February 28 in Wilmington DE, contact Will at [wbraunlein@lunginfo.org](mailto:wbraunlein@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 12 in Charleston WV, contact Jessica at [JIsner@lunginfo.org](mailto:JIsner@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 18 in Scotch Plains NJ, contact Pamela at [pjohnson@lunginfo.org](mailto:pjohnson@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 26 in Plymouth Meeting, contact Maura at [mhaslam@lunginfo.org](mailto:mhaslam@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 27 in Camp Hill, contact Myka at [mdiller@lunginfo.org](mailto:mdiller@lunginfo.org)
- ◆ Freedom From Smoking (FFS) facilitator training
  - ◆ Feb 21-22 in Camp Hill, contact Brandi at [bdavenport@lunginfo.org](mailto:bdavenport@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 13 in Plymouth Meeting, contact Rachelle at [rsmith@lunginfo.org](mailto:rsmith@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 18-19 in State College, contact Brandi at [bdavenport@lunginfo.org](mailto:bdavenport@lunginfo.org)
- ◆ Teens Against Tobacco Use (T.A.T.U.) facilitator trainings *SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!*
  - ◆ February 28 9:00-4:00 in Plymouth Meeting, contact Maura [mhaslam@lunginfo.org](mailto:mhaslam@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 11 & 18 4-7pm in Plymouth Meeting, contact Maura [mhaslam@lunginfo.org](mailto:mhaslam@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 11 4-9:30pm in Plymouth Meeting, contact Maura [mhaslam@lunginfo.org](mailto:mhaslam@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 18 9:00-4:00 in West Chester, contact Maura [mhaslam@lunginfo.org](mailto:mhaslam@lunginfo.org)
  - ◆ March 19 in Lancaster, contact Brandi at [bdavenport@lunginfo.org](mailto:bdavenport@lunginfo.org)
- ◆ Not On Tobacco (NOT) facilitator training
  - ◆ April 9 in Camp Hill, contact Brandi at [bdavenport@lunginfo.org](mailto:bdavenport@lunginfo.org)

**Want your program announced here? Send it to Sara at [SLewis@lunginfo.org](mailto:SLewis@lunginfo.org)**

## Alvesco (Ciclesonide)

1-10-08

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Alvesco (ciclesonide) Inhalation Aerosol for the maintenance treatment of asthma and as prophylactic therapy in adult and adolescent patients aged 12 years and older.

Alvesco is a new generation of inhaled corticosteroid that reduces inflammatory processes and is indicated for the use in patients with asthma.

Ciclesonide is a prodrug that is activated by intracellular esterases following oral inhalation. Alvesco has wide inhibitory activities against multiple inflammatory cell types and chemicals involved in the asthmatic response.

In clinical trials, Alvesco was generally well tolerated. The most common adverse reactions (>3%) were headache, nasopharyngitis, sinusitis, pharyngolaryngeal pain, upper respiratory infection, arthralgia, nasal congestion, pain in the extremities and back pain.

Treatment with orally inhaled corticosteroids may lead to signs or symptoms of hypercorticism, suppression of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) function and/or suppression of growth in children. Glaucoma, increased intraocular pressure and cataracts have been reported following the administration of inhaled corticosteroids.

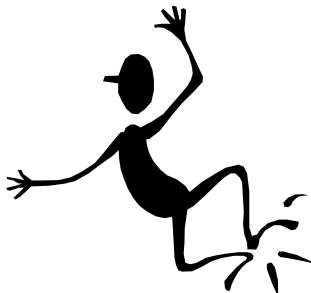
Alvesco (ciclesonide) Inhalation Aerosol is an orally inhaled corticosteroid indicated for the maintenance treatment of asthma as prophylactic therapy in adult patients 12 years of age and older. Alvesco is NOT indicated for the relief of acute bronchospasm.

More information on this product can be found at: <http://www.drugs.com/alvesco.html>

**Please note: Article provided for informational purposes only. Publishing of information does not imply endorsement.**

## Send a Thank You Email

To Thank Wegmans grocery stores for no longer selling tobacco products within their stores, The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids have asked their network of champions in the states where Wegmans operates to send thank you notes. That got such a good response that they set up the action page as a microsite that allows anyone to send Wegmans a thank you email -- it is <http://www.thankwegmans.com/>. Please distribute the url and this note as widely as possible. A special email box has been set up at Wegmans to receive thank you notes and so far close to 700 have been sent.



May is Asthma Awareness Month. Join the US EPA in the national effort to raise awareness about asthma! This Asthma Awareness Month, host activities to educate people in your community about comprehensive asthma management. Download EPA's Asthma Awareness Month Event Planning Kit featuring new ideas for outreach, awareness activities, tips for working with the media, success stories **and much more!** Go to: <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awm/index.html> for more information.

### New Resources

- The *2007 American Lung Association Asthma Trend Report* can now be accessed through [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)
- The Pennsylvania Chronic Care Management, Reimbursement and Cost Reduction Committee have released a Strategic Plan which asthma is featured in. Go to: <http://www.rxforpa.com/assets/pdfs/ChronicCareCommissionReport.pdf>
- Looking for a video to show someone what a full asthma attack sounds like? Perhaps this video off of YouTube could help. Go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeehWsHKH4w&feature=related>
- The Health Research and Educational Trust Disparities Toolkit team is proud to release this updated Toolkit. The Toolkit is a web-based tool that provides hospitals, health systems, clinics, and health plans information and resources for systematically collecting race, ethnicity, and primary language data from patients. To access this free toolkit go to: [www.hretdisparities.org](http://www.hretdisparities.org)
- The EPA has released the Asthma Health Outcomes Project (AHOP) Asthma Indoor Air Quality Report. The study, found that asthma programs that address environmental triggers work best to improve health outcomes. For more information go to: [www.epa.gov/asthma/ahop.html](http://www.epa.gov/asthma/ahop.html)
- Those of you that are involved in after-school programs now have a resource to help with funding! Go to: [www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding\\_main.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_main.cfm)
- Making the Diagnosis of Occupational Asthma: When to Suspect It and What to Do reviews by experts can be found at <http://primarycare.theclinics.com/>
- American Respiratory Care Foundation has a web-based continuing education course offered at: [http://www.epapartnershiparcf.org/courses/asthma\\_triggers/lecture\\_hall.cfm](http://www.epapartnershiparcf.org/courses/asthma_triggers/lecture_hall.cfm)
- The American Association for Respiratory Care offers the Asthma Educator Certification Preparation Courses go to [www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org) for more information
- The New York State Department of Health now have a brochure called "Is Your Asthma Work-Related". Go to: [www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/workplace/lung\\_disease\\_registry](http://www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/workplace/lung_disease_registry)

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The American Lung Association now has scholarships available to train individuals for Open Airways for Schools and Communities. If you are interested in implementing OAS within your school or community please contact Brandi at [Bdavenport@lunginfo.org](mailto:Bdavenport@lunginfo.org) Scholarships are on a first come, first served basis.

# Workgroup Update...

**Executive Committee:** Completed review and edits to the Rules of Operation/ Guidelines of PAP. These are now submitted to DOH for approval. Also reviewed and made suggestions to workgroups as appropriate. Agenda for the upcoming April 10 PAP meeting was also reviewed.

**Awareness/Education:** Has now broken into four sub-committees to more effectively work together. If you can assist in any of these tasks, all efforts would be appreciated. The group is aware that without teamwork on these efforts, areas may be missed.

*School Programs*— currently gathering information on what do colleges/ universities teach on chronic illnesses, will try to begin talking with all education majors to prepare them for asthma attacks in the classroom. Information is also being gathered on offering the Asthma Friendly Schools Program.

*World Asthma Day* — currently gathering information on what programs are going to be run across the state. This list will be placed online and updated as new information is found. Next year they will focus more on creating their own event across the state. The group will be putting together a general asthma fact sheet for the Partnership's use.

*Programs* — currently gathering a list of programs across the state to be placed as resources on the PAP website. Making known what is available across the state is an important first step for this workgroup.

*Asthma Educator Institute* — originally the purpose of this group would be to bring the Asthma Educator Institute into PA. It was discussed that other organizations are already providing this service to the community. We agreed to help promote these courses instead of duplicating efforts.

**Disparities:** Completed and submitted a fact sheet centered on disparities in asthma across PA to DOH. A press release is being developed for World Asthma Day. Received a rough draft of the PA Pediatric Asthma Toolkit evaluation from the surveillance workgroup.

**Environment/Workplace:** DOH and EPA are discussing the sharing of data in order to look at relationships between air quality and asthma rates in PA. Partnership members are hoping to facilitate this relationship. A general environmental fact sheet on asthma is being developed for approval. A workplace asthma survey model has been found from Wisconsin, additional funding will be needed before additional steps can be taken. Partners are working together on the Conference on Children's Health and the Environment to come up with an agenda for the conference.

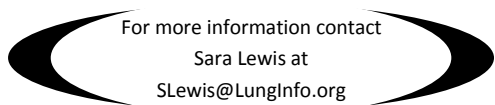
**Providers:** An Asthma Champion letter has been sent to every hospital in the state, partnering with the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania. The goal is to recruit an individual who will pass on asthma information to all hospital staff. We will be inviting these individuals to the Asthma Champions Conference for medical personnel on June 19th at Temple University, Harrisburg. Continuing education credits are being applied for to recruit more participants in this conference.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the **April 10th PAP Spring Meeting!!** It will be held all day at Temple University, Harrisburg. Please plan on attending!!

## Pennsylvania Asthma Partnership

C/O American Lung Association  
3001 Old Gettysburg Road  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Phone: 717-541-5864 ext. 28  
Fax: 717-541-8828  
E-mail: [SLewis@LungInfo.org](mailto:SLewis@LungInfo.org)



The Pennsylvania Asthma Partnership (PAP) is the joining together of all individuals interested in reducing the asthma burden throughout Pennsylvania. Partners work on short, medium and long-term outcomes, that when implemented can be measured. The ultimate goal is to decrease asthma morbidity, mortality, and costs to increase the quality of life for those with asthma. Partners participate in workgroups such as: Surveillance/Evaluation; Environment/Workplace; Awareness/Education; Provider; Disparities; and Public Policy. Workgroups move towards achieving the goals within the 2006 Pennsylvania Asthma Action Plan. Membership is free and open to anyone.

The Pennsylvania Asthma Partnership is managed by the American Lung Association of Pennsylvania and is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For your own copy of the 2006 Pennsylvania Asthma Action Plan please visit [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us).

**Have an interesting article you'd like featured in the newsletter? Let us know! Send a copy to Sara at [SLewis@lunginfo.org](mailto:SLewis@lunginfo.org)**

## Workgroup Update Continued...

**Public Policy:** For World Asthma Day this workgroup will be putting together educational packets on asthma for legislators. These packets will include fact sheets from other workgroups, information order form in case they would like to order materials for their constituents, an asthma action plan, possibly a regional programs listing, possibly a letter asking for passage of the Clean Indoor Air legislation if needed and a proclamation from the governor. Workgroup has also received edits from the Providers workgroup on a listing of medications and supplies that should be fully covered by health insurers across the state. Workgroup will be using this list as a framework to get all health insurers to cover those supplies equally. This will, in time allow physicians to have more time with patients and less difficulty getting the supplies needed.

**Surveillance:** Completed a rough draft of a PA Pediatric Asthma Toolkit survey. The purpose of this survey is to gather general information. Using continuing education credits online as an incentive to complete a survey is being looked into. If this is possible, questions will need to be added to fulfill credit requirements.



Stay Tuned... The Pennsylvania Asthma Partnership will be launching it's website soon.