EVALUATION OF A HEALTH LAW PARTNERSHIP LEGAL SERVICES
CLINIC SERVING LOW INCOME CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA IN ATLANTA,
GA: PROVIDER KNOWLEDGE, USE OF AE-CS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR
FUTURE PRACTICE

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Background: Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services is a medical-legal
collaboration. HeLP law school students learn alongside pediatric residents and medical
students, under the supervision of clinical faculty, to improve childhood asthma, housing
conditions, and access to healthcare. Clients are low income metro Atlanta residents,
whose children are patients at a children’s hospital. Purpose: The purpose of this study
was to: 1. assess the level of asthma knowledge amongst medical and law students, and
pediatric residents who train in the HeLP clinic; 2. determine the awareness of use and/or
need for AE-C’s by those practicing in the HeLP; and 3. determine any gaps or concerns
that need to be addressed for effective asthma education. Methods: After IRB approval, a
two-part on-line survey was emailed to participants to assess effective asthma
management knowledge and the use of AE-Cs. After 3-weeks, data was analyzed using
SPSS Statistics v.23. Results: 34 usable surveys were received (44% MD, 32% law, 24%
med students). Resident and medical student asthma knowledge scores were higher
overall than law students. However, the 24 questions regarding asthma knowledge were
reviewed individually and law students answered 12 (or 50%) of the questions more
accurately than the pediatric residents and medical students. No significant differences
were found among overall asthma knowledge scores of law students and medical
residents/students. Respondents indicated that they would utilize the resources of an AE-
C, if available (n=85%). See Table 1 for additional information. Discussion: No known
studies have compared the knowledge of asthma management and the use of AE-Cs in a
medical-legal partnership. Many gaps were noted in the knowledge of asthma. This is the
first assessment and therefore, further education is needed for those who advocate for
individuals with this incurable, yet, manageable pulmonary disease. Awareness of the
use of AE-Cs is also strongly recommended.
<table>
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<th>An AE-C:</th>
<th>Validates specialized knowledge</th>
<th>Indicates Clinical Competence</th>
<th>Indicates level of practice standard</th>
<th>Enhances professional recognition from peers</th>
<th>Promotes recognition from other health professionals</th>
<th>Promotes recognition from employers</th>
<th>Increases consumer confidence</th>
<th>Enhances the feeling of a personal accomplishment</th>
<th>Enhances personal confidence in one's clinical abilities</th>
<th>Provides personal satisfaction</th>
<th>Provides a professional challenge</th>
<th>Enhances professional autonomy</th>
<th>Indicates professional growth</th>
<th>Increases marketability</th>
<th>Increases one's salary</th>
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Abstract with Data