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RespiRo initiative on asthma

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Background & Aim: Romanian Family Physicians (FPs) have a gatekeeper role which could offer them a key position in the management of patients with chronic respiratory diseases. In reality, several restrictions imposed by the National Health Insurance Fund (e.g. reimbursed inhalers prescribed by FPs only on a medical letter basis) have demotivated FPs and contributed to the absence of a structured primary care (PC) approach of patients with chronic respiratory conditions. Therefore the management of these patients is heterogeneous and inefficient. RespiRo is an initiative of a small group of FPs to build a network of PC practices able to manage respiratory patients at high standards. The “Practical approach of difficult to control asthma in primary care” is the first project of the group intended to provide to participating FPs knowledge, skills and support to restructure their daily practice regarding the management of patients with asthma.

Method. A two years programme with four main interventions:

1. a teaching program based on the SIMPLES instrument;
2. developing a local operational protocol focusing on the main guideline recommendations related to diagnosis and asthma treatment;
3. a system of exchange visits, tutoring and monitoring;
4. an established peer evaluation and feedback.

Results: At the end of 2015 was held the teaching programme which included 15 FPs. The group is now involved in developing an operational asthma guideline adapted to the national health care specific. The results will be represented by data gathered from:

1. one questionnaire applied before and after implementation of a good standard asthma care to each FP involved in the project;
2. one questionnaire applied before and after implementation of the guideline targeting asthma patients;
3. one focus group with 10-12 representative FPs aiming at recording their views regarding good asthma care opportunities and barriers.

This is an ongoing programme so only partial results will be available.

Conclusions. At the time of the presentation will be available an overview of the teaching programme and the final document on standard care concept and tools. The final conclusions will be available at the end of 2016.

Competing Interests: Financial and educational support from IPCRG/U-BIOPRED