

ABSTRACT

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR ASTHMA: USE BY PRIMARY-CARE PROVIDERS IN FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

Fresno County primary-care physicians were found to differ significantly in knowledge, adoption and implementation of, and attitudes toward, clinical practice guidelines for asthma, compared with three reference populations. A survey consisting of a self-reporting research instrument of physicians in family practice, internal medicine, and pediatrics found that Fresno physicians' scores on a test of knowledge about clinical guidelines for asthma were lower than those of University of Iowa Medical Center resident and faculty positions. Their adoption and implementation of guidelines, evidenced by prescribing inhaled corticosteroids, was better than that of the European physician participants in the Drug Education Project. Attitudes to clinical practice guidelines for asthma were more favorable than were those of members of the American College of Physicians. As Fresno asthmatics are among the most severely affected in California, physician knowledge, utilization, and favorable attitudes toward use of evidence-based clinical guidelines will improve patient outcomes.

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