

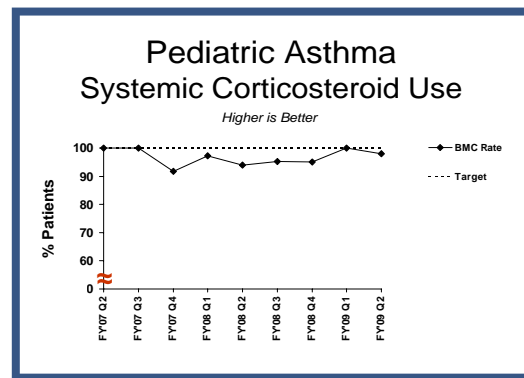
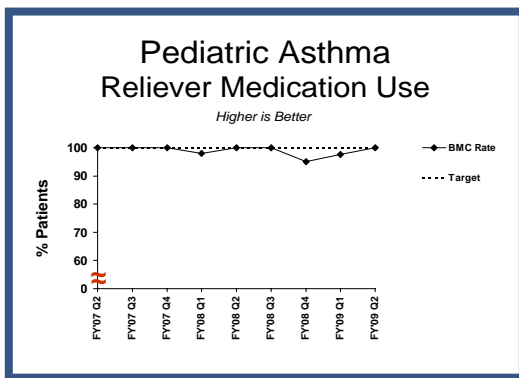
# CHILDREN'S ASTHMA CARE

## Where we've been...

**P**ediatric asthma is the most common serious chronic disease of childhood, affecting nearly 5 million children in the United States. The dramatic increase in the incidence of pediatric asthma has led Baystate Medical Center (BMC) to develop an integrated strategy for improving the care of children with asthma. The development of inpatient and outpatient clinical practice guidelines and care sets, adoption of a pediatric hospitalist model, criteria for specialist referral, development of a basic asthma survival skills program, and a strong outpatient community focus have allowed for increased collaboration, effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of pediatric asthma care. Standardized asthma education is provided to all patients with asthma and their families, and referrals for outpatient programs are made for those who require extra attention. This information is key to success in self-management of asthma.

## Where we are now...

**BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER** The use of reliever medications is at 100% for FY'09 YTD. Likewise, the use of systemic corticosteroids remains high, and currently is at 99%. Home Management Planning (HMP) is key to success in self-management of asthma and in preventing readmission and frequent use of emergency departments. It is also a complex intervention with many components including information on triggers, follow-up care, medication titration, and crisis planning in the event of sudden exacerbation. Delivering a useful patient-centered HMP has been an important priority in the past year and the team has been able to develop and successfully provide this information to patients and families with increasing success over the last few months, the current rate being 92%.



## Where we are going...

Intensive pediatric asthma management in partnership with patients and families has resulted in a number of substantial improvements in care. By better coordinating the care of children with asthma, BMC has successfully integrated advances in medical therapy, educational programs, and clinical care to improve outcomes at Baystate Medical Center. We will continue to focus on patient and family education and management, and optimizing appropriate medication regimens for inhaled and systemic steroids.