

This investigation focuses on improving the compliance of primary care practitioners with the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute National Asthma Education and Prevention Panel Expert Panel Report 2: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma (EPR2 guidelines) by using a computer decision support system. The specific aims are to:

1. Design an asthma decision support system using the algorithms outlined in the EPR2 guidelines.
2. Test the decision support system in a population of asthmatics treated by primary care practitioners
3. Evaluate the outcomes of patients treated with the assistance of the decision support system versus patients treated without the decision support system
4. Discern the attributes of the decision support system that are important for success and adjust the algorithms where indicated.
5. Make the system widely available if it improves the outcomes of patients with asthma.