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Lawrence + Memorial Hospital to Receive the 2017 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data

WALLINGFORD – At its 99th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Lawrence + Memorial Hospital with the 2017 *John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data* for its project, Breathe Well * Respira Bien.

When officials at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital realized that the hospital's ED utilization for asthma and rate of adult asthma admissions was among the highest in the state, they were concerned. Additionally, rates of asthma among Hispanics and Black non-Hispanics were particularly high.

In an effort to address these issues and health disparities, the hospital created the Breathe Well * Respira Bien intervention program, which has resulted in significant improvement in patient outcomes, reduced ED utilization, and greater asthma control among pediatric and adult populations.

"The Breathe Well * Respira Bien intervention is empowering people to take control of their asthma," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "The proven results of this project are not only apparent in the data today, but will impact the future for many of the young people being served. This work exemplifies the purpose of the *John D. Thompson Award*, and we are proud to honor Lawrence + Memorial Hospital."

Breathe Well * Respira Bien incorporates two areas of intervention: post-ED visits for those in the community, and inpatient/school-based treatment for students. Led by the hospital's asthma self-management coach, the effort addresses gaps and barriers to care.

New procedures implemented through Breathe Well * Respira Bien include the creation of a special report generated weekly to track ED utilization for asthma. Based on this report, the

asthma self-management coach reaches out to every patient, offering the full intervention, including asthma education workshops in English and Spanish. In the first year, the asthma education/ED outreach aspect of the program has reached more than 500 patients and enrolled 49 participants.

The primary measure of the intervention's impact is the Asthma Control Test (ACT), a five-question tool that asks about symptoms and daily functioning to determine asthma control. ACT assesses the frequency of shortness of breath and general asthma symptoms, use of rescue medications, the effect of asthma on daily functioning, and overall self-assessment of asthma control. Before the intervention, ACT scores showed 16.7 percent of community-based cohort participants had well-controlled asthma; after the intervention, 47.6 percent had well-controlled asthma. In the school-based cohort, 37 percent of participants had well-controlled asthma prior to the intervention; 74.3 percent had well-controlled asthma after the intervention.

The Breathe Well * Respira Bien program is consistent with the hospital's statement of intent on quality, which is to use evidence-based models of care to deliver superior quality and safety in every setting; it also demonstrates that community health workers have a positive impact on health outcomes.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.



