



Education Needs and Practice Gaps – 2017

The AAAAI Office of Medical Education reviews a number of resources to identify the highest priority knowledge and practice gaps among the Academy's members to guide the development of educational activities that will result in improved practice and optimal patient care. Topics marked with an asterisk (*) are the highest priority knowledge and practice gaps reported by participants in the 2017 AAAAI Annual Meeting. The additional topics below were identified from analysis of the results of the 2014 and 2015 Allergy/Immunology Self-Assessments and several surveys of allergy/immunology patients. The AAAAI acknowledges the support of the following lay organizations who shared patient survey data for this purpose:

Allergy and Asthma Foundation of America
Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics
Immune Deficiency Foundation
The Mastocytosis Society

Practice Improvement Topics:

- I. **Patient/Provider Communication** (*These gaps are relevant to all conditions and should be addressed in education activities regardless of disease state*)
 - Patients express a lack of understanding of their treatment plans, disease status, and expectations for health outcomes
 - Related gaps include: differences in terminology used by patients and providers; ineffective patient education about medications and devices prescribed, including their purposes, adverse effects, and costs; and misunderstandings regarding the expected outcomes of care
- II. **Allergens and Antigens**
 - Appropriate testing protocols for determining sensitivity to allergens and antigens
 - Safety and efficacy standards for allergen and antigen testing
- III. **Allergic and Immunologic Skin Conditions**
 - Diagnosis and testing to diagnose dermatologic conditions, including atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, and urticaria
 - Mechanisms of allergic and immunologic skin conditions
 - Environmental triggers of contact dermatitis
- IV. **Asthma**
 - Quality and outcomes of asthma care*
 - Treatment of patients with asthma*
 - Disconnect in patient and provider assessment of asthma severity and communication of treatment expectations
 - Inconsistent patient assessment at scheduled visits
- V. **Food Allergy**
 - Diagnosis and testing for patients with suspected food allergies*
 - Treatment of patients with a food allergy diagnosis*
 - Research discoveries related to food allergies and their application*
 - Quality and outcomes of care of patients with food allergies*

VI. Immune Deficiencies

- Diagnosis and testing to identify immune deficiencies
- Increased time to diagnosis of immune deficiencies
- Appropriate treatment of immune deficiencies, incl. IG administration

VII. Immune Mechanisms of Allergic and Immunologic Diseases

- New research discoveries and their application*

VIII. Pharmaceuticals and Therapeutic Agents

- Diagnosis and testing for patients with reactions to drugs*
- Appropriate use of therapeutic agents to manage patients with asthma, including guideline-based recommendations and newly developed therapies
- Identification of pharmaceutical agents that could impact skin testing results
- Appropriate uses of new therapeutic agents such as biologics

IX. Practice Management

- Billing and coding for allergy/immunology care*
- Business and administrative issues*

Office of Medical Education (2017)

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All other committee members disclosed no relevant financial relationships.