

# PATIENTGRAM

Newsletter

April 2020

## ACT TeleHealth Visits are Now Available

For our patients who are concerned about a potential exposure risk, our providers are now set up to do a TeleHealth visit for some appointments. These visits are both audio and visual so you can both hear and see the provider.

You must have a web enabled smart phone or laptop, be signed up for our patient portal (if you are not, you may call our office to register) and have signed an electronic TeleHealth consent form. This form is located on our website under New Patient Information, Patient Forms and then click on TeleHealth Consent.

Check with your insurance carrier as some are waiving the co-pay during this time of pandemic. If you are unsure of your ability to participate and interested in this option, you may call and speak with one of our schedulers or triage nurses

## ACT's Employees of the Month

We would like to introduce our April clinical Employee of the Month, Britny. She is a huge asset to the nursing division. She assists with the biologic program and has successfully taken over the RAD, Food and Drug program and decreased the wait time to a few days instead of several months. Britny is excellent at the testing piece for each of these and makes sure that the patients are cared for from beginning to completion. She also does the patch testing for the Mingo location. From all of us at ACT, we congratulate Britny on a job well done!



We are excited to congratulate Lisa our April non-clinical employee of the month. Lisa is Dr. Purser's and Erin's main scheduler but also makes appointments for all the providers. Lisa is flexible in her duties and always willing to lend a hand with a smile, whether it is staying late to help fill a provider schedule, returning phone calls to patients or answering the main phone, she can be counted on to help. Lisa we are so happy you are part of our ACT team!

# Important COVID-19 information for those with asthma and/or allergies

## Recommendations from the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

As COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the United States and the world, allergists are hearing from their patients – those with allergies and especially those suffering from asthma. They are worried that having asthma means they're at increased risk for developing symptoms from COVID-19 if they are exposed. They also wonder if their symptoms will be more dangerous if they have the virus. In addition, a recent announcement regarding a shortage of albuterol has increased anxiety throughout the country.

It is important if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspect you may have COVID-19 and are using a nebulizer at home, that you know the virus may persist in droplets in the air for 1-2 hours. Therefore, you should administer nebulized albuterol in a location that minimizes exposure to members of your household who aren't infected. Choose a location for your treatment where air is not recirculated into the home – places like a porch or patio, or in a garage – areas where surfaces can be cleaned more easily or may not need cleaning.

The allergists of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology have information and tips to share. We are making every effort to keep our information updated and will be linking to the most current news on the virus to keep you in the loop.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has listed asthma as one of the chronic illnesses that may increase the chance of a severe case of COVID-19. So, what do you need to know if you or a family member suffers from asthma? Read the points below for more information.

- Respiratory viruses are the most common trigger for asthma exacerbations (severe worsening typically requiring oral steroids to relieve symptoms).
- Not all viruses affect asthma patients equally. Some viruses such as influenza and rhinovirus are more likely to trigger asthma flares than others.
- Right now, we don't know if COVID-19 is one of those viruses that tends to trigger asthma exacerbation.
- There is no clear evidence that patients with asthma are at any higher risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Asthma is an "underlying medical condition" that may be associated with more severe disease if you are infected with COVID-19.
- There is no evidence that asthma medications used to prevent symptoms (inhaled steroids, oral steroids, montelukast, biologics), etc. increase your risk of contracting COVID-19.

**If you become infected, use caution and avoid experimental treatments unless the treatment is specifically recommended by the physician caring for you.**

From American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology at  
[www.aaaai.org](http://www.aaaai.org)

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

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