

Key Topic Areas in Focus Groups for Asthma Surveys
(used with the draft survey instruments)

- (1) How do participants perceive their own or their children's asthma as a chronic disease?
 - a. Do survey questions involving subjective assessments, rating scales, activity interruptions, medication use, and symptoms adequately assess perceptions of asthma as a chronic disease?

- (2) How do participants perceive acute exacerbations of asthma?
 - a. How do they characterize the frequency, duration, severity of episodes and the symptoms experienced?
 - b. What are the key adverse outcomes of exacerbations, e.g. the symptoms experienced, or the activity limitations, or what?
 - c. How do typical episodes of exacerbation differ from more severe exacerbations?
 - d. Do planned survey questions adequately assess the attributes that describe exacerbations?

- (3) What are participants' attitudes toward drug therapy?
 - a. Perceived effectiveness.
 - b. Concerns about side effects, bother, or possible problems from long-term use?
 - c. Use of drugs to prevent exacerbations vs. use of drugs to relieve exacerbations.
 - d. Attitudes about costs.
 - e. How hard is it to recall usage and costs of usage?

- (4) What activities do participants take to manage their own or their children's asthma?
 - a. How to get respondents to think broadly about this to recall all the things they might do.
 - b. Do planned survey questions capture the range of management activities?

- (5) How do participants react to the hypothetical commodities and payments that would be used to assess willingness to pay?
 - a. Plausibility of commodities?
 - b. Amount of information needed to make a choice.
 - c. Difficulty of answering these questions.
 - d. Attitudes toward payment; e.g. feelings that one should not have to pay for medications.