

THE STORY OF CCAP...THEN AND NOW

HISTORY



The Calgary COPD & Asthma Program, also known as CCAP, was an initiative begun in 1991 by a dedicated group who recognized the need for such a program, in Calgary. This group, led by Drs. Robert Cowie, Gordon Ford and Stephen Field, helped build CCAP into a nationally recognized, multi-site, multi-disciplinary program serving Calgary and Southern Alberta.

The original name, Calgary Asthma Program (CAP) was changed to include COPD in 2000, as the need was recognized. In the early years, only asthma patients were seen but an increase in awareness of COPD, coupled with funding opportunities, enabled this group of respiratory patients to receive much needed care. Originally, the program was funded through clinical trial research and the pharmaceutical industry. It wasn't until 2003 that the local health region came to value education, disease prevention and self management in chronic diseases. CCAP was then financially supported and recognized as an integral part of a large health care institution.

OUR EVOLUTION



Over time, CCAP's focus has moved from specialty clinics to primary care and the community. All educators with the program are Certified Respiratory Educators (CRE) and offer patient education (both individual and group) on asthma, COPD and smoking cessation.

The program was and still remains dedicated to respiratory care, education and research. The research branch is currently handled through the University of Calgary while the education branch is under the umbrella of Alberta Health Services (Chronic Disease Management). Recognized for the continued involvement in leading edge clinical trials, CCAP educators and physicians consistently provide seamless respiratory care for our adult patients (16 years and older). CCAP strives to be one of the leading centres in Canada for asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), tobacco reduction and chronic cough.

CCAP employs 8 nationally Certified Respiratory Educators (CREs) that work in the areas of inpatient teaching, outpatient respiratory clinics, primary care clinics and community respiratory clinics providing education and spirometry (breathing test) throughout Calgary and surrounding area. CCAP physicians (respirologists) and educators serve as committee and board members for various regional, provincial, national and international lung health initiatives.