SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES FROM HARMFUL CHEMICALS

A Five-part Webinar Series
Part 4
Advancing Environmental Medicine Practice
Welcome

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ATSDR’s Strategic Approach

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Increase the capacity of primary care providers to:

• assess and reduce environmental exposure risks and
• recognize and treat diseases caused by hazardous substances in the environment.
The Focus for Environmental Medicine Practice

- Adopt environmental exposure assessment as routine clinical practice
- Adopt environmental exposure risk reduction practices and services that reduce susceptibility during reproductive years and childhood
Long-Term Outcomes

• Reduce environmental disease and disability resulting from exposure to environmental toxicants and other environmental hazards
  – Increase early detection and mitigation of exposure
  – Prepare the primary care health system to effectively prevent environmental health effects, or care for affected patients
  – Reduce risk of environmental exposure within geographic areas and across age-specific life stages, such as childhood and child-bearing years
A Systems Model for Clinic Care Practice Change

Desired Clinical Practice and Care Delivery:
- Exposure Assessment
- Risk Reduction
- Treatment

Medical Education:
- Curriculum
- Clinical Rotations
- Boards Examines
- Continuing Education

Healthcare System Structure and Policy:
- Case Management
- Quality Measure
- Payment Approach
- Economic Impact and Benefit

Clinical Practice Guidance:
- Clinic and Clinician Procedures
- Job Aid Tools
- Training and Consultation Networks
Building Integrated System-level Capability to Reduce Environmental Disease and Disability

- Conduct toxic substances research and apply findings
- Communicate environmental exposure risks and health effects
- Develop clinical consultation networks and guidance for clinical care and risk reduction
- Evaluate health and economic efficacy of environmental medicine practice
- Institute policy or procedures that promote and enable environmental risk reduction services delivery among primary care providers
- Build environmental medicine capacity through clinical education and clinical support tools
- Monitor environmental disease risks and burden
- Evaluate health and economic efficacy of environmental medicine practice