



**AACPDm**

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555 East Wells Street  
Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

info@aacpdm.org  
+1 (414) 918-3014

www.aacpdm.org

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**Media Contact:**

Tamara Wagester  
Executive Director  
[twagester@aacpdm.org](mailto:twagester@aacpdm.org)  
Phone: 414.918.3014

**For Immediate Release:**

**AACPDm Announces Release of “Respiratory Health in Cerebral Palsy”**

*Respiratory illness due to infection is by far the leading cause of death for individuals with CP*

**Milwaukee, WI – May 19, 2022**, The American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDm) has published a new Care Pathway, “Respiratory Health in Cerebral Palsy.” The evidence-informed recommendations provide information for the management of respiratory health in individuals with cerebral palsy (CP) that can be found online and in print-friendly format.

Respiratory illness due to infection is by far the leading cause of death for individuals with CP. As the publication indicates, respiratory health in individuals with CP is a major issue which warrants early consideration and discussion. Respiratory illness is the number one cause for unplanned visits to the hospital. Once an individual with CP has one hospital admission for a respiratory infection, over the next 12 months there is a 70% chance of a second admission with a respiratory infection. The hospital admissions are often prolonged, and recurrences may have increasing negative effects over time.

“Individuals with cerebral palsy are susceptible to respiratory illnesses such as upper and lower respiratory tract infections, the latter including pneumonia which is commonly due to aspiration,” stated M.S. Cooper, Team Lead for the AACPDm Respiratory Care Pathway. “It has been an honor to work with such a distinguished group of specialists from a multi-



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disciplinary background to better advance the understanding and treatment of this major issue for individuals with CP and other childhood onset disabilities,” Cooper added.

“AACPDM is thrilled to announce the addition of the Respiratory Health Care Pathway. We view these recommendations as vital to the continuation of high-quality care for individuals with childhood-onset disabilities,” says current AACPDM President, Tom Novacheck, MD. “I congratulate the authors of this Care Pathway for their hard work and dedication that has resulted in a multidisciplinary scientific document that can be used by both health professionals and individuals to empower and support the cerebral palsy community through innovation and implementation,” Novacheck added.

### **About AACPDM Care Pathways**

AACPDM Care Pathways are clinical recommendations for the health care of individuals with childhood-onset disabilities. Practice recommendations provided by Care Pathways are based on the best available evidence from high quality systematic reviews. Recommendations are graded for their probable accuracy and the confidence with which they can be used for the purpose of making clinical decisions. The systematic processes used in the decisions and judgments involved with development of the clinical recommendations made by Care Pathways are transparent and explicitly described.

### **About American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine**

Established in 1947, the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine provides multidisciplinary scientific education for health professionals and promotes excellence in research and services for the benefit of people with cerebral palsy and childhood-onset disabilities.

AACPDM’s goals are to improve the quality of life for patients and their families, to research new and promising treatments and educate clinicians to provide the best care possible. The academy currently has 1,200 members worldwide.

The information can be found on-line at <https://www.aacpdm.org/publications/care-pathways>. Options for reading the Pathway include the full document, a printer friendly version, and a summary file.

For more information, contact the AACPDM at (414) 918-3014 or email [twagester@aacpdm.org](mailto:twagester@aacpdm.org) or visit [www.aacpdm.org](http://www.aacpdm.org).

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