

Asthma management by appropriate controller medications

Benchmark to qualify for bonus payments: This measurement has separate benchmarks for different age ranges. The bonus will be determined for each age group independently.

- **5 to 9 years of age:** 91.7% of qualifying patients on an appropriate controller medication.
- **10 to 17 years of age:** 88.8% of qualifying patients on an appropriate controller medication.
- **18 to 56 years of age:** 85.4% of qualifying patients on an appropriate controller medication.

Measurement Period: Calendar year 2008

Qualifying Service: One pharmacy claim for a drug in any of the following classes: inhaled corticosteroids, nedocromil, cromolyn sodium, leukotriene modifiers or methylxanthines. Writing a prescription is not a qualifying service. The prescription must be dispensed at least once during the measurement period, based on paid claims data from HFS.

Qualifying patient: Patients with persistent asthma on the PCPs roster on December 1, 2008. Patients are considered to have persistent asthma if they meet any one of the four criteria below, during both the measurement year and the year prior to the measurement year (criteria need not be the same across both years).

- At least one ED visit with asthma as the principal diagnosis.
- At least one inpatient admission with asthma as the principal diagnosis.
- At least four outpatient asthma visits (non-ER services with RecordIDCd of 'N' or 'O') with asthma as the primary diagnosis and at least two asthma medication dispensing events.
- At least four asthma medication dispensing events (i.e., an asthma medication dispensed on four occasions).

For a patient identified as having a persistent asthma because of at least four asthma medication dispensing events, where leukotriene modifiers were the sole asthma medication dispensed, the member must:

- Meet any of the three other criteria listed above in the same year as the leukotriene modifier, **or**
- Have at least one diagnosis of asthma in any setting in the same year as the leukotriene modifier (i.e., measurement year or prior to the measurement year).

Asthma Diagnosis Codes (ICD-9): 493 including any fourth and fifth digits, except 493.2x

Codes to Identify Visit Type

Description	CPT	UB-92 Revenue
Outpatient/ Office Visit	99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99217-99220, 99241-99245, 99383-99386, 99393-99396	051x, 052x, 077x, 0982, , 0983
Other Evaluation and Management	99499	
Special Evaluation and Management Services	99450, 99455, 99456	
In-patient	Inpatient is identified by COS 020, counted by number of admissions	
Emergency Department	99281-99285, ,	045x, 0981

Reference: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/>