

## **Are Your Patients Skipping Their Asthma Medications in the Summer?**

During the summer months, Molina Healthcare of Michigan (MHM) members who feel well may stop taking their asthma controller medications. These members are more likely to suffer in the Fall. When the Fall comes, hospital admissions increase and data shows these hospitalized members have not been filling their controller medications. In fact, 75% of the hospitalized pediatric members had no prescriptions filled the month prior to admission. MHM is encouraging providers to contact their patients with asthma and make sure they fill their prescriptions or see if they need refills during the summer months. Also, 50% of MHM members did not fill their prescriptions after hospitalization. When there is a hospital discharge or any other emergency situation, an emergency override can be entered 24 hours/7 days a week. Providers or pharmacies can call: 1-888-898-7969. Some members are leaving the hospital without medication due to use of non formulary medications.

Formulary information can be found on the website at the following links:

<http://www.molinahealthcare.com/medicaid/providers/mi/drug/Pages/formulary.aspx>

<http://www.molinahealthcare.com/medicaid/providers/mi/manual/Pages/medicaid.aspx>

Here are some suggestions:

- Please stress the importance of staying on a controller medicine even when feeling well
- Create an Asthma Action Plan and emphasize the importance of following the plan
- Have each patient demonstrate they know the difference between rescue and controller medications
- Evaluate the inhaler technique of each of your patients
- Peak Flow Meters are FREE. Each MHM member with asthma should have one. Contact MHM 1-866-449-6828 extension 155725 or 155426

## **Using MHM Formulary Medications Prevents Prior Authorization:**

**No PA Required- QVAR 40 and 80 mcg-**MHM is using QVAR as the preferred inhaled corticosteroid. When providers write for this product there is No PA required. When an inhaled corticosteroid is needed, please consider using QVAR, Other products require prior authorization.

**No PA Required- ProAir HFA-**MHM is using ProAir HFA (albuterol) as the preferred short acting beta agonist. When providers write for this product no PA is required. When your members require a short acting beta agonists, please consider ProAir HFA. All other albuterol products require a PA.

**NO PA Required for members 9 years and under for:** Singulair chewables and Pulmicort respules