



## Asthma Warning Signs



Asthma attacks rarely occur without warning. Warning signs are not the same for everyone. Know your warning signs and how to react to them. This may help you avoid an asthma attack.

### Some common warning signs that occur before an asthma attack are:

- Chronic cough, especially at night
- Chest feels tight or hurts
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling tired or weak
- Feeling restless

Follow your asthma action plan as soon as you have any of these warning signs. If you do not have an asthma action plan, call your provider's office.

### In This Issue

Asthma Warning Signs	pg 1
Working with the Provider to Control Asthma	pg 2
Tips to Prevent Further COPD Damage	pg 3
Taking Your Medicine	pg 4-5
Nurse Advice Line	pg 6

## Need Help Quitting Smoking?

If you need help quitting, call the Free and Clear Program at 1-800-784-8669 for one-on-one help.

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*You are receiving this newsletter as part of a Disease Management Program. If you do not want to receive this newsletter or participate in any Disease Management Program please let us know. Please call us at (866) 891-2320*

*All material in this newsletter is for information only. This does not replace your provider's advice.*

## Working With the Provider to Control Asthma

Do you feel you and your provider are working together in your asthma care? Many people do not. Your provider needs to learn about your health in order to give you the best treatment plan. As the patient, you are the best source for this kind of information. It is important for you to see your provider often as instructed, not just when you are sick. This way your provider can make sure the treatment plan is working.

There are different types of asthma medicine. By following up with your provider, they will know how well the prescribed asthma medicines work for you. You may need to visit your provider more often in the beginning. Visits may be set for every one to six months. Ask them when you should come back for a follow up asthma visit.

### At these visits, tell your provider:

- How often you use your medicine
- Whether you do not take your prescribed medicine
- What medicines are being used, including home remedies (such as teas or herbs) or anything other than what the provider has ordered

- About any changes in your asthma symptoms
- How often you miss work or school or cannot exercise because of asthma
- How often you wake up at night because of asthma
- At these visits, also ask your provider any questions you may have

By giving and getting information, you and your provider can work together to control asthma.

### Make the most of every visit with these tips:

- Bring all of your asthma medicines to each visit
- Write down the day, time, and what you were doing when asthma symptoms began. Bring this information to each provider visit.
- Bring a spacer to each visit if you have one
- Bring a peak flow meter to each visit if you have one



## Tips to Prevent Further COPD Damage

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, is a disease that damages your lungs. It makes breathing very hard. COPD gets worse over time. You cannot undo the damage to your lungs. But there are steps you can take to prevent more damage.

**Here are some steps you can take that may help prevent your COPD from getting worse. They can also help make you feel better!**

- Quit smoking now! Smoking irritates your lungs and airways. This makes it hard to breathe. It is never too late to quit. If you quit, you will find it easier to breathe. You will also prevent more damage to your lungs. If you quit now it will improve your quality of life!
- Stay away from places and things that can irritate your lungs. This includes, indoor and outdoor air pollution, second hand smoke, smog, pollen, mold, dust mites, pet hair, cleaning supplies, cold dry air, hot humid air or high altitudes.
- Get a flu shot! Doctors suggest that all people with COPD get one. This is because people with COPD are at risk for developing complications from the flu, like pneumonia. The flu shot can help protect you! If you get the flu it can also make your COPD worse. The flu may also cause a sudden worsening of your COPD symptoms.
- Stay away from people who are sick with the cold, flu, cough or an upper respiratory tract infection. Even if you catch a mild cold, it can make your COPD symptoms worse. Wash your hands often. Do not touch your face with your hands during the cold or flu season.
- Exercise! It will give you energy and build muscle strength. It can also help reduce shortness of breath. Exercise can improve your quality of life! Do not forget to talk to your provider before you start an exercise plan.
- Eat well. A healthy diet will help keep your lung muscles strong. It will also give you energy and help you fight off infections.
- Make sure you drink enough water and fluids. This will help keep mucus watery and easy to drain. This will make it easier to breathe. If you have a heart problem, talk to your provider about how much fluid you can drink.
- Stick to your treatment plan! It will make you feel better, and you will be less likely to become depressed. Take your medicine exactly as your provider tells you to.

While COPD will not go away, there are things you can do to prevent more damage. If you take these steps you will feel better. It will also help you manage your COPD. Talk to your provider if you have questions. You can also call Molina Healthcare's Nurse Advice Line for help!

Call: (888) 275-8750 (English)  
(866) 648-3537 (Spanish)

TTY: (866) 735-2929 (English)  
(866) 833-4703 (Spanish)



## Taking Your Medicine: Important Tips You Should Know

Medicine is taken to help you manage or treat a condition or illness. Medicine can become dangerous if it is not taken correctly or if it reacts with another medicine. Here are a few tips to make sure you are up-to-date with the medicine you are taking.

### Tip #1: Knowing about your medicine

Create a list of the medications you take. Make sure to update this list any time your provider makes changes to your medicine. It is important to review your list of medicines with your provider, so bring this list with you to each visit with your provider. The list should include the following:

- **Name:** What is the name of the medicine?
- **Amount:** How much do you take?
- **When:** When do you take the medicine?
- **Purpose:** Why are you taking the medicine? What is it supposed to do?

Include any other non-prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, herbs, and vitamin supplements on your list. These may interact with the prescription medicines, so it is important for your provider to know everything you are taking. Make notes of any side effects you have from your medicine and make sure to discuss with your provider.

### Tip #2: Taking your medicine

In order for your medicine to do its job, you must take it as your provider prescribed. It may be hard to remember to take it sometimes when you go about your day. Here are some tips to help you keep on track with taking your medications:

- Take it at the same time everyday
- Take it together with other daily events, like brushing your teeth
- Use a pill box
- Ask someone close to you to help remind you
- Make yourself a reminder note and place it somewhere so you will see it everyday

Always take your medicine the way your provider told you to take it. Taking too much or skipping doses can be dangerous. Do not stop taking your medicine unless your provider tells you to stop taking it.



**Tip #3: Medicine safety**

- Use the same pharmacy to pick up all of your medicines
- Do not share medicines
- Do not use medicine that has expired
- Let your provider know if you have any allergies to medicines
- Keep your medicine out of reach from pets and children
- Keep your medicine away from heat and damp areas





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## Questions about your health?

Call Our Nurse Advice Line!

English: 1-888-275-8750

Spanish: 1-866-648-3537

**OPEN 24 HOURS!**

Your family's health is our priority!

For the hearing impaired please call

TTY(English): 1-866-735-2929

TTY(Spanish): 1-866-833-4703