

HEDIS® Tips:

Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR)

MEASURE DESCRIPTION

The percentage of patients 5–64 years of age who were identified as having persistent asthma and had a ratio of controller medications to total asthma medications of 0.50 or greater during the measurement year. Patients are in the measure if they met at least one of the following during both the measurement year and the year prior.

- At least one ED visit with asthma as the principal diagnosis.
- At least one acute inpatient claim/encounter, with asthma as the principal diagnosis.
- At least 4 outpatient or observation visits with asthma as one of the diagnoses **and** at least 2 asthma medication dispensing events for any controller medication or reliever medication. Only 3 of the 4 visits may be a telehealth visit, a telephone visit or an online assessment.
- At least 4 asthma medication dispensing events for any controller medication.

USING CORRECT BILLING CODES

Codes to Identify Asthma

Description	*ICD-9 Codes	ICD-10 Codes
Asthma	493.00-493.02, 493.10-493.12, 493.81, 493.82, 493.90-493.92	
Mild Intermittent Asthma		J45.20 - J45.22
Mild Persistent Asthma		J45.30 - J45.32
Moderate Persistent Asthma		J45.40 - J45.42
Severe Persistent Asthma		J45.50 - J45.52
Other and Unspecified Asthma		J45.901, J45.902, J45.909, J45.990, J45.991, J45.998

*ICD-9 codes are included for historical purposes only and can no longer be used for billing.

Description	Asthma Controller Medications - Prescriptions
Antiasthmatic combinations	Dyphylline-guaifenesin, Guaifenesin-theophylline
Antibody inhibitor	Omalizumab
Inhaled steroid combinations	Budesonide-formoterol, Fluticasone-salmeterol, Mometasone-formoterol, Fluticasone-vilanterol
Inhaled corticosteroids	Beclomethasone, Budesonide, Ciclesonide, Flunisolide, Fluticasone CFC free, Mometasone
Leukotriene modifiers	Montelukast, Zafirlukast, Zileuton
Methylxanthines	Dyphylline, Theophylline
Anti-interleukin-5	Mepolizumab, Reslizumab

Description	Asthma Reliever Medications - Prescriptions
Short-acting, inhaled beta-2 agonists	Albuterol, Levalbuterol, Pirbuterol

*Please refer to the Molina Healthcare Drug Formulary at www.molinahealthcare.com for asthma controller medications that may require prior authorization or step therapy.

HOW TO IMPROVE HEDIS SCORES

- Ensure proper coding to avoid coding asthma if not formally diagnosing asthma and only asthma-like symptoms were present. Ex: wheezing during viral upper respiratory infection and acute bronchitis is not “asthma.”
- Educate patients on use of asthma medications.
- Prescribe a long-term controller medication and provide reminders to your patients to fill controller medications.
- Use the needed services list and contact patients who have not filled a controller medication.
- Inform patients mail-order delivery is available to them.
- Only 3 of the 4 visits may be a telehealth visit, a telephone visit or an online assessment.
- Refer patients for Health Management interventions and coaching by contacting Health Care Services at your affiliated Molina Healthcare State plan.