

2022 HEDIS Measure Tips



One in a series of tip sheets that look at key Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures, commonly referred to as HEDIS® measures.

Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR)

Effectiveness of Care HEDIS® Measure*

HEDIS measure description

The percentage of members who were identified as having persistent asthma and had a ratio of 0.50 or more controller medications to the total asthma medications dispensed during the measurement year.

Measure population (denominator)

Members age 5 to 64 as of December 31 of the measurement year identified as having persistent asthma who met at least one of the following criteria during **both** the measurement year **and** the year prior with any of the following:

- ED visit with a principal diagnosis of asthma
- Acute inpatient encounter with a principal diagnosis of asthma without Telehealth
- Acute inpatient discharge with a principal diagnosis of asthma
- Four outpatient visits (face-to-face or virtual) with an asthma diagnosis on different dates of service **and** two asthma medication dispensing events
- Four asthma medication dispensing events
 - If leukotriene modifiers or antibody inhibitors are the sole asthma medications dispensed during the year, there also must be an asthma diagnosis in any setting during the same year.

Did you know?

- Asthma is a treatable, reversible condition that affects more than 25 million people in the United States. Managing this condition with appropriate medications could save the U.S. billions of dollars in medical costs.
- Appropriate medication management for patients with asthma could reduce the need for rescue medication—as well as the costs associated with ER visits, inpatient admissions and missed days of work or school.

This measure applies to commercial members.

continued

Measure compliance (numerator)

Members who have a medication ratio of 0.50 or greater during the measurement year.

Ratio:

$$\frac{\text{Units of Controller Medications}}{\text{Units of Total Asthma Medications}}$$

One Medication Unit = any of the following

Inhaler canister	Injection
Oral medication (30-day supply or less)	Infusion

Note: A list of Controller and Reliever medications found below. Ratio calculated through pharmacy claims only.

Exclusions

- Members in hospice or using hospice services anytime during the measurement year
- Deceased members during the measurement year
- A history of:
 - Emphysema
 - COPD
 - Cystic Fibrosis
 - Obstructive Chronic Bronchitis
 - Chronic Respiratory Conditions due to fumes or vapors
 - Acute Respiratory Failure
- Members not dispensed any asthma controller/reliever medications during the measurement year

Helpful HEDIS hints

- **Prescribe** a 90 day supply of asthma controller medication to patients stable on their regimen.
- **Inhalers** of the same medication dispensed on the same day count as one dispensing event.
- **Follow up** with phone calls and office visits to assess adherence to medication therapy.
- **Be aware** that medication samples do not count. Gap closure is dependent on pharmacy claims.

Asthma Controller Medications

Description	Route	Prescription	Common brands
Antibody inhibitors	Injection	Omalizumab	Xolair
Anti-interleukin-4	Injection	Dupilumab	Dupixent
Anti-interleukin-5	Injection	Benralizumab Mepolizumab Reslizumab	Fasenra Nucala Cinqair
Inhaled steroid combinations	Inhalation	Budesonide-formoterol Fluticasone-salmeterol Fluticasone-vilanterol Mometasone-formoterol	Symbicort Advair Diskus, HFA and Airduo RespiClick Breo Ellipta Dulera
Inhaled corticosteroids	Inhalation	Beclomethasone Budesonide Ciclesonide Flunisolide Fluticasone Mometasone	Qvar RediHaler Pulmicort Flexhaler Alvesco Nasalide, Nasarel Flovent HFA, Diskus and Arnuity Ellipta Asmanex
Leukotriene modifiers	Oral	Montelukast Zafirlukast Zileuton	Singulair Accolate Zyflo
Methylxanthines	Oral	Theophylline	Theo-24

Asthma Reliever Medications

Description	Route	Prescription	Common brands
Short-acting, inhaled beta-2 agonists	Inhalation	Albuterol Levalbuterol	Ventolin Xopenex

Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2011. "Asthma in the US Growing Every Year." [cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/2011-05-vitalsigns.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/2011-05-vitalsigns.pdf)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2022. "Asthma Action Plans." [cdc.gov/asthma/actionplan.html](https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/actionplan.html)

* HEDIS®, which stands for Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set, is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance, or NCQA.

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