



EFFECTIVE DATE: 07|01|2005

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 01|18|2023

OVERVIEW

This policy documents the coverage determination for Asthma Management Services. Asthma Management Services are used to teach members and/or families how to successfully manage Asthma.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Asthma Management Services are covered only when ordered by a physician and provided by certified asthma educators or hospital-based clinics.

Physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants should utilize evaluation and management codes unless certified as an asthma educator.

Asthma Management Services are covered when rendered in a physician's office, outpatient department of a hospital, or a hospital-based clinic.

NOTE: Services are not separately reimbursed when they are rendered on an inpatient basis.

BACKGROUND

Asthma Management Services are used to teach members and/or families how to successfully manage asthma. Successful management of asthma requires that the patient or patient's caregiver have a fundamental understanding of and skills for following the therapeutic recommendations, including pharmacotherapy and measures to control factors that contribute to asthma severity. The ultimate goal of both expert care and patient self-management is to reduce the impact of asthma on related morbidity, functional ability, and quality of life. The benefits of educating people who have asthma in the self-management skills of self-assessment, use of medications, and actions to prevent or control exacerbations, include reduction in urgent care visits and hospitalizations, reduction of asthma-related health care costs, and improvement in health status. Asthma management services may use a group education component.

The National Asthma Educator Certification Board exam is a voluntary testing program used to assess qualified health professionals' knowledge in asthma education. It is an evaluative process that demonstrates that rigorous education and experience requirements have been met. Certification is voluntary and is not required by law for employment in the field.

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement for applicable office visit and/or coverage.

CODING

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Only certified asthma educators may only use the code(s) listed here when filing for asthma education services. The following HCPCS code(s) is covered under the member's office visit/clinic benefit/coverage:

S9441 Asthma education, non-physician provider, per session.

RELATED POLICIES

None

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, March 2023

Provider Update, March 2020

Provider Update, September 2018

Provider Update, May 2017

Provider Update, May 2013

REFERENCES

<https://www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/asthma/health-professionals-educators>

<https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/management.html>

https://health.ri.gov/programs/detail.php?pgm_id=5

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