

## Payment Policy | Asthma Management Services



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 07|01|2005

**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 7|17|2018

### 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

Prior authorization is not required.

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial

Only certified asthma educators, or hospital based clinics contracted and recognized by the Plan, or recognized by another Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) Plan, will be reimbursed.

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

Asthma management services are medically necessary 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.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not Applicable

### BACKGROUND

Asthma management services are used to teach members and/or families how to successfully manage asthma. Education is an important component in the treatment and management of asthma. Self-management leads to reduced asthma symptoms, decreased physician and emergency room visits, and a higher quality of life. Asthma management services may use a group education component.

The National Asthma Education Certification Board is a voluntary testing program used to assess qualified health professional's knowledge in asthma education. This testing is used to ensure educational and experience requirements. Certification is voluntary and not required by law for employment.

### COVERAGE

Asthma management services are covered only when ordered by a physician.

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement for applicable office visit, clinic, durable medical equipment, or pharmacy benefits/coverage.

## CODING

### Blue CHIP for Medicare and Commercial

Only certified asthma educators may only use the codes listed in this policy when filing for asthma education services.

The following code 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 September 2018

Provider Update May 2017

Provider Update May 2013

Provider Update May 2008

Provider Update May 2007

## REFERENCES

<http://naecb.com/index.php>.

<http://www.lung.org/lung-health-and-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/asthma/asthma-education-advocacy/asthma-educator-institute.html>

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