

Medical Coverage Policy



Asthma Management Services

Device/Equipment Drug Medical Surgery Test Other

Effective Date:	7/1/2005	Policy Last Updated:	2/5/2013
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Prospective review is recommended/required. Please check the member agreement for preauthorization guidelines.

Prospective review is not required.

Description:

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 that educational and experience requirements. Certification is voluntary and not required by law for employment.¹

Medical Criteria:

None

Policy:

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.

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

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

Asthma management services are medically necessary as follows:

- When rendered in a physicians office, outpatient department of a hospital, or a hospital based clinic.

- Only certified asthma educators may use S9441 when filing for asthma education services.

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

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate member certificate, subscriber agreement, or benefit booklet for applicable office visit, clinic, durable medical equipment, or pharmacy benefits/coverage.

Coding:

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

The following codes represent supplies typically covered under member's durable medical equipment (DME) benefit/coverage:

A7003 Administration set, with small volume nonfiltered pneumatic nebulizer, disposable

A7004 Small volume nonfiltered pneumatic nebulizer, disposable

A7007 Large volume nebulizer, disposable, unfilled, used with aerosol compressor

A7008 Large volume nebulizer, disposable, prefilled, used with aerosol compressor

A7017 Nebulizer, durable, glass or autoclavable plastic, bottle type, not used with oxygen

E0570 Nebulizer, with compressor

E0575 Nebulizer, ultrasonic, large volume

E0580 Nebulizer, durable, glass or autoclavable plastic, bottle type, for use with regulator or flowmeter

E0585 Nebulizer, with compressor and heater

S8096 Portable peak flow meter

S8097 Asthma kit (including but not limited to portable peak expiratory flow meter, instructional video, brochure, and/or spacer)

The following codes are covered under the member's durable medical equipment (DME) benefit/coverage and purchased at a DME vendor, OR under the generic pharmacy benefit if purchased at a pharmacy:

A4627 Spacer, bag or reservoir, with or without mask, for use with metered dose inhaler

S8100 Holding chamber or spacer for use with an inhaler or nebulizer; without mask

S8101 Holding chamber or spacer for use with an inhaler or nebulizer; with mask

Also known as:

N/A

Related topics:

N/A

Published:

Provider Update, May 2013

Provider Update, July 2008

Policy Update, May 2007

Policy Update, October 2005

References:

¹The National Asthma Education Certification Board. Accessed 2/6/13:

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

American Lung Association. Accessed 2/6/13: <http://www.lung.org/lung-disease/asthma/resources/for-health-professionals/asthma-educator-institute.html>.

History

3/5/2013: Annual review.

5/20/08 Annual review

3/15/07 Annual review

10/21/05 New policy approved

Medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgment in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member's subscriber agreement or member certificate and/or the employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center. If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions. This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice.