



EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2005
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 02/05/2013

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.

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 physician's 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.

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

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

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

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

A7003 A7004 A7007 A7008 A7017 E0570

E0575 E0580 E0585 S8096 S8097

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 S8100 S8101

RELATED POLICIES

None

PUBLISHED

Provider Update May 2013

Provider Update July 2008

Policy Update May 2007

REFERENCES

The 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>.

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