

# HEDIS Tip Sheet

## Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR)



HEDIS measures are one of health care's most widely used performance improvement tools, offering insight on important aspects of clinical care and service. Point32Health's HEDIS Tip Sheets offer insight into specific HEDIS measures. The best practices and tips can aid your practice in optimizing HEDIS scores by ensuring that the data reported accurately reflects your practice's performance and identifying opportunities to improve patient care.

**The AMR measure assesses adults and children aged 5–64 who were identified as having persistent asthma and had a ratio of controller medications to total asthma medications of 0.50 or greater during the measurement year.**



Patients with one of the following are included in the measure:

- At least one emergency department visit with asthma as the principal diagnosis.
- At least one acute inpatient claim/encounter, with asthma as the principal diagnosis.
- At least one acute inpatient discharge with a principal diagnosis of asthma.
- At least four outpatient or observation visits with asthma as one of the diagnoses and at least two asthma medication dispensing events for any controller medication or reliever medication. Only three of the four visits may be a telehealth visit, a telephone visit or an online assessment.
- At least four asthma medication-dispensing events for any controller or reliever medication.



### Provider Best Practices

- Educate patients on the following:
  - The difference between controller (long acting) and rescue medications/inhalers.
  - Utilize more preventive medication instead of rescue medications to manage their asthma.
  - Possible side effects of controller medications and how they can control them.
- Be sure to **properly diagnose patients** and report the **appropriate codes** (asthma-like symptoms do not always mean the patient has asthma).
- Encourage frequent visits and routinely reassess patient's symptoms to determine if dosages are appropriate.
- Code for any diagnoses on the exclusion list on an annual basis.

### Exclusion List



Patients who have had the following diagnoses are excluded:

- Emphysema
- COPD
- Obstructive chronic bronchitis
- Chronic respiratory conditions due to fumes/vapors
- Cystic fibrosis
- Acute respiratory failure



### Dispensing Events

- **Oral medication dispensing event:** One prescription of an amount lasting  $\leq 30$  days.
- **Inhaler dispensing event:** All inhalers of the same medication dispensed on the same day count as one dispensing event.
- **Injection dispensing event:** Each injection (of the same or different medications) is one dispensing event.
- **Units of medications:** One medication unit equals one inhaler canister, one injection, or a  $\leq 30$ -day supply of an oral medication.

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