

Measure definition

Percentage of members 5-64 years of age who have been identified as having persistent asthma and had a ratio of controller medications to total asthma medications of 50% or greater during the measurement year

Plans(s)	Quality Program(s)	Collection and Reporting
Marketplace Medicaid	CMS Quality Rating System NCQA Health Plan Ratings	Administrative: Claim/Encounter Data Pharmacy Data

Best practices for quality care

- Educate patients on the use of asthma medications and importance of using asthma controller medications daily.
- Have an asthma action plan.
- Prescribe a long-term controller medication and provide reminders to members to fill controller medications.
- Encourage 90-day fills for controller medications.
- Perform outreach to schedule follow-up visits.
- Address barriers to medication adherence, such as access to medication refills.
- Refer members who might benefit from care management services to wellsense.org/your-health/care-management.
- Additional member education materials are available at wellsense.org/your-health.

Quality score improvement tips

- Use proper coding and refrain from coding asthma if asthma-like symptoms were present but asthma was not formally diagnosed. For example, wheezing during viral upper respiratory infection and acute bronchitis is not asthma.

Exclusions

- Members who had a diagnosis that requires a different treatment approach than members with asthma any time during the member's history through December 31 of the measurement year. This may include:
 - Acute respiratory failure.
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
 - Chronic respiratory conditions due to fumes/vapors.
 - Cystic fibrosis.
 - Emphysema.
 - Obstructive chronic bronchitis.
- Members who had no asthma controller or reliever medications dispensed during the measurement year.
- Members who used hospice services or elected to use a hospice benefit any time during the measurement year.
- Members who died any time during the measurement year.

Numerator codes

There is a large list of approved NCQA codes used to identify services included in this measure. The following are the approved codes. For more information, please refer to the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). CPT II codes can be accepted as supplemental data, reducing the need for chart collection and review during the HEDIS hybrid season.

CODES		DESCRIPTIONS
ICD-9	493.00 - 493.02, 493.10 - 493.12, 493.81, 493.82, 493.90 - 493.92	Asthma
ICD-10	J45.20 - J45.22	Mild intermittent Asthma
ICD-10	J45.30 - J45.32	Mild persistent Asthma
ICD-10	J45.40 - J45.42	Moderate persistent Asthma
ICD-10	J45.50 - J45.52	Severe persistent Asthma
ICD-10	J45.901, J45.902, J45.909, J45.991	Other and Unspecified Asthma

Asthma controller medications

Asthma Controller Medications	Prescriptions
Antibody inhibitors	Omalizumab
Anti-interleukin-5	Mepolizumab, Reslizumab
Inhaled corticosteroids	Beclomethasone, Budesonide, Ciclesonide, Flunisolide, Fluticasone CFC free, Mometasone
Inhaled steroid combinations	Budesonide-formoterol, Fluticasone-salmeterol, Fluticasone-vilanterol, Mometasone-formoterol
Leukotriene modifiers	Montelukast, Zafirlukast, Zileuton
Methylxanthines	Theophylline, Dyphyline
Antiasthmatic combinations	Dyphyline-guaifenesin, Guaifenesin-theophylline

How WellSense can help

HEDIS tip sheets are designed to help WellSense providers improve and report the quality of care delivered to WellSense members across key metrics.

If you have questions around HEDIS documentation and quality measures, please email the Quality Team at WS_Quality_Dept@wellsense.org.