



2024 AMR

Asthma Medication Ratio

Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR)

Asthma



Asthma is a treatable, manageable, condition that affects more than 25 million people in the United States.



The prevalence and cost of asthma have increased over the past decade, demonstrating the need for better access to care and medication.



In 2017, asthma resulted in an estimated 1.6 million emergency department (ED) visits and 183,000 hospitalizations in the United States (CDC).



Appropriate medication management for patients with asthma could reduce the need for rescue medication—as well as the costs associated with ER visits, inpatient admissions and missed days of work or school.

Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR)- Quick Overview

Measure Description

Patients 5–64 years of age 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 Period.

Data Collection Method: Administrative - Claims

Measure Steward: National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

Adult &
Pediatric



Patients 5-64 years of age who have persistent asthma and who have claims for asthma medication



Ratio of controller medications to total medications of 0.50 or greater

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Required Exclusions

Any time during the current performance period



- **Patients in hospice or using hospice services**
- **Patients who passed away**
- **Patients who weren't dispensed an asthma controller or reliever medication**

Any time during the patient's history through the end of the current performance period



- **Acute respiratory failure**
- **Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**
- **Chronic respiratory conditions due to fumes/vapors**
- **Cystic fibrosis**
- **Emphysema**
- **Obstructive chronic bronchitis**

To comply with this measure, a member must have the appropriate ratio of controller medications to total asthma medications

Asthma Controller Medications

Drug Category	Medications
Antibody Inhibitors	Omalizumab
Anti-Interleukin-4	Dupilumab
Anti-Interleukin-5	Benralizumab, Mepolizumab, Reslizumab
Inhaled corticosteroids	Beclomethasone, Budesonid , Ciclesonide, Flunisolide, Fluticasone, Mometasone
Inhaled steroid combinations	Budesonide-formoterol, Fluticasone-salmeterol, Fluticasone-vilanterol, Formoterol-mometasone
Leukotriene modifiers	Montelukast, Zafirlukast, Zileuton
Methylxanthines	Theophylline

Asthma Reliever Medications

Drug Category	Medications
Short-acting, Inhaled beta-2 agonists	Albuterol, Levalbuterol

Step 1 - Count the units of asthma controller medications dispensed during the measurement year.

Step 2 - Count the units of asthma reliever medications dispensed during the measurement year.

Step 3 - Sum the units calculated in step 1 and step 2 to determine units of total asthma medications.

Step 4 - Calculate the ratio of controller medications to total asthma medications using the following formula. (Round using the .5 rule to the nearest whole number.)

Units of Controller Medications (step 1)

Units of Total Asthma Medications (step 3)

Compliant members have a ratio of 0.50 or greater.

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Best Practices

- Members 5 years of age and older with persistent asthma should be **prescribed and remain on an asthma controller** and be provided with an **asthma action plan**.
- Ensure members referred for asthma **keep their appointment**.
- **Keep list of member medications current** to include medications from other providers.
- Develop asthma action plans with patients and **education on reduction of asthma triggers**.
- Offer **assistance with utilizing inhalers when first prescribed** to ensure appropriate usage.
- Ensure the member is **not using more rescue medications than preventive medication to control their asthma**.
- **Report the appropriate diagnosis codes for the member's condition**. Include the appropriate codes for diagnosed conditions that may exclude the member from this measure (e.g., emphysema, COPD, obstructive chronic bronchitis, cystic fibrosis, acute respiratory failure, etc.).



QUESTIONS?

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