



Guidance on Asthma Education Coverage in Medicaid and CHIP

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects your lungs. Asthma can cause wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness and coughing. During an asthma attack, the lungs become irritated and inflamed making it difficult to breathe. In 2018, Medicaid paid for 63 percent of total child asthma emergency department visits in Texas. In 2019, asthma was the:

➔ Medicaid

- 2nd most cited reason for a STAR and CHIP potentially preventable admission (PPA)
- 4th most cited reason for a STAR Health PPA
- 9th most cited reason for a STAR Kids PPA

➔ CHIP

- 17th most cited reason for a CHIP potentially preventable ED visit (PPV)
- 20th most cited reason for a STAR and STAR Kids PPV
- 25th most cited reason for a STAR Health PPV



Below is a summary of the benefits available to Medicaid and CHIP members regarding Asthma Education. Please see the [TMPPM Provider Manual](https://bit.ly/31wReQb) for more information (<https://bit.ly/31wReQb>).

Medicaid Coverage

Asthma Education in the Home Setting

Certified respiratory care practitioners who are physician providers, home health agencies or respiratory therapists may provide asthma education in the home setting.

- The respiratory care practitioner must be certified by the National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB) as a certified asthma educator

For a client age 0-20 with a chronic underlying respiratory illness, or a newly diagnosed long-term respiratory condition that is currently resulting in a suboptimal respiratory status, procedure codes S9441 or 98960 are payable for services rendered in the patient's home with the following limitations:

- **S9441** and **98960** are payable for ages 0-20 only.
- **S9441** and **98960** are each limited to once per day, by any provider, and twice per lifetime.
- **S9441** and **98960** will not be reimbursed in any combination if submitted on the same date of service by any provider.

Asthma Education via Telemedicine or Telehealth

Remote group clinical visits for asthma education may be billed using 99078 with modifier 95.

Individual asthma education may be billed using S9441 or 98960 with modifier 95.

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Group Clinical Visit for Asthma

Physicians, or other qualified health care professionals including Advanced Practice Nurses (NP, CNS) or Physician Assistants (PAs), as well as Registered Nurses in both the office and outpatient hospital setting may provide Group Clinical Visits, for clinical services and educational counseling to a group of clients with asthma.

Procedure code 99078 (educational services provided in a group clinical setting visits by physician, or other qualified health care professional) is payable for all ages covered for Texas Medicaid.

Group visits must be at least one hour and no longer than 2 hours with a minimum of 2 clients and maximum of 20 clients.

Group visits for conditions of asthma are limited to a maximum of four per year for any provider.

Group visits are only for established patients and must include CDC-approved Asthma Education and Prevention Programs. Group clinical visits are benefits of Texas Medicaid for the management of the condition of asthma when submitted with the following diagnoses codes:

- J440, J441, J449, J4520, J4521, J4522, J4530, J4531, J4532, J4540, J4541, J4542, J4550, J4551, J4552, J45901, J45902, J45909, J45990, J45991, J45998

CHIP Coverage

Asthma education is covered by CHIP under Physician/Physician Extender Professional Services.

CHIP coverage includes remote delivery as telehealth or telemedicine services. (Reimbursement for remote delivery of asthma education with modifier 95.)



Additional Information

S9441 – Asthma education, non-physician provider, per session

98960 – Education and training for patient self-management by a qualified, non-physician health care professional using a standardized curriculum, face-to-face with the patient (could include caregiver/family) each 30 minutes.

99078 – Educational services provided in a group clinical setting visits by physician, or other qualified health care professional.

Resources

TMPPM: <https://bit.ly/31wReQb>

- TMPPM Certified Respiratory Care Practitioner (CRCP) Services Handbook
- TMPPM Medical and Nursing Specialists, Physicians, and Physician Assistants Handbook, Chapter 9.2.56.2 Group Clinical Visits and Chapter 9.2.56.3 Group Clinical Visits for Asthma.

Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative Portal:
<https://thlcportal.com/home>

DSHS Asthma Program: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/asthma/default.aspx>

DSHS Resource: Emergency Department Visit Rates for Asthma, Child Asthma, and Adult Asthma by Demographics, Public Health Region, County, and Total Charges by Primary Payer, Texas 2018

Questions or Concerns

Contact us at PCHP.ProviderRelations@phhs.org.