

Project Background: Over 25 million Americans have asthma, including 4.2 million children. The findings of numerous studies and pilot programs indicate that adherence to evidence-based care has been associated with better patient outcomes for people with asthma, including fewer hospitalizations, fewer days of missed school and work, and reduced treatment costs.

Research shows that while the number of people living with asthma has increased, people with asthma are better managing their disease. However, the gains have not been universal. Asthma prevalence rates are disproportionately high in minority populations, especially among Black Americans and American Indians and Alaska Natives. Additionally, children with Medicaid coverage are more likely to receive care in the emergency department and be hospitalized as a result of their asthma than their peers with other health coverage.

In 2015, the American Lung Association launched the Asthma Guidelines-Based Care Coverage Project to track coverage of and barriers to guidelines-based asthma care in state Medicaid programs. The Lung Association updated the treatments and services tracked through this project after the release of the 2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines: A Report from The National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Expert Panel Working Group in December 2020.

For more information, please visit Lung.org/asthma-care-coverage or contact us at Asthmacare@lung.org.

✓ = Covered ▼ = Coverage varies by plan ✗ = Not covered N/A = Not Applicable NAv = Not Available

Quick Relief Medications Fast acting or quick relief medications are taken to provide immediate relief from the narrowing of airways in lungs and other acute symptoms of asthma.



Quick Relief Medications	Covered?	Barriers?
Albuterol Sulfate (inhaled)+	✓	Yes
Albuterol Sulfate (nebulized)	✓	Yes
Levalbuterol (inhaled)+	✓	Yes
Levalbuterol (nebulized)	✓	Yes

Controller Medications Controller medications taken daily on a long-term basis to control persistent asthma.



Controller Medications	Covered?	Barriers?
Inhaled Corticosteroids		
Budesonide (Nebulized)	✓	Yes
Beclomethasone	✓	Yes
Ciclesonide	✓	Yes
Fluticasone propionate	✓	Yes
Mometasone furoate	✓	Yes
Systemic Corticosteroids		
Methylprednisolone	✓	Yes
Prednisolone	✓	Yes
Prednisone	✓	Yes
LABA		
Salmeterol xinafoate	✓	Yes
LAMA		
Tiotropium Bromide	✓	Yes
Combined Medications		
Fluticasone propionate and salmeterol	✓	Yes
Mometasone furoate and formoterol fumarate	✓	Yes
Budesonide and formoterol fumarate	✓	Yes
Fluticasone furoate and vilanterol	✓	Yes
Fluticasone furoate, umeclidinium and vilanterol	✓	Yes
Cromolyn		
Cromolyn	✓	Yes
Leukotriene Receptor Antagonists		
Montelukast	✓	Yes
Zafirlukast	✓	Yes
5-Lipoxygenase Inhibitor		
Zileuton	✓	Yes
Methylxanthines		
Theophylline	✓	Yes
Immunomodulators		
Omalizumab	✓	Yes

Devices Additional appliances/accessories sometimes used to properly administer asthma medication.



Devices	Covered?	Barriers?
Nebulizer	✓	Yes
Peak-Flow Meter	✓	Yes
Valved-Holding Chamber+	✓	Yes

Allergen Testing An assessment of sensitivity to allergens for patients with persistent asthma.



Allergen Testing	Covered?	Barriers?
Allergy Testing	✓	Yes

Allergen Immunotherapy For asthma patients with known allergen sensitivities (determined by an allergen test) and whose symptoms cannot be controlled by medication.



Allergen Immunotherapy	Covered?	Barriers?
Allergen Immunotherapy	✓	Yes

Lung Function Testing Also called pulmonary function testing, lung function testing includes a variety of tests that check how well the lungs work.



Lung Function Testing	Covered?	Barriers?
Spirometry	✓	Yes
FeNo Testing	✓	Yes

Home Visits Home visits and interventions address the home environment, have at least two components, and include assessment and education of either integrated pest control or at least two other triggers. Interventions should include at least two visits to a patient's home.



Home Visit and Intervention	Covered?	Barriers?
Home Visit and Intervention	✗	N/A

Self-Management Education Providing education and instructions on ways to self-monitor asthma symptoms.



Self-Management Education	Covered?	Barriers?
Self-Management Education	✓	Yes