



CHOICESM
Health Plans

Provider News

Closing the Asthma Medication Ratio Gap

SelectHealth from VNSNY CHOICE wants to highlight for you a HEDIS quality measure that may concern your SelectHealth patients diagnosed with and being treated for asthma.

The **Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR) quality measure** focuses on the number of patients with **persistent asthma** (more than two symptoms a week and lung capacity of $\leq 80\%$) who have a ratio of controller medications to total medications of 0.5 or greater (measured as medication units).

Some patients may also fall into the measure if they have at least four asthma medication dispensing events (including albuterol and other reliever medications), even if they do not have a persistent asthma diagnosis that could warrant or require a controller medication.

Closing HEDIS Gaps

When you see your patients, you can close this HEDIS gap by doing the following:

- Confirm that the correct codes are being used to identify if a patient has persistent asthma.
- Target patient education on the difference between controller and reliever medications and why controllers are important to prevent complications.
- Assess the use of reliever medications at every visit to see if a controller medication needs to be added or increased in strength.
- Review the frequency of auto-refill reliever medications to ensure their use is appropriate.

- When appropriate, consider using low dose ICS/formoterol (Symbicort and Dulera) as reliever therapy for mild asthma, in line with the 2021 [Global Initiative for Asthma \(GINA\) guidelines](#).

To download a quick reference guide from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Asthma Education and Prevention Program you can share with staff on diagnosing and treating asthma, please click on the button below:

[See the NIH Asthma Care Quick Reference Guide](#)

If you have any **questions** about this communication, please contact Sukhmani.Singh@vnsny.org.



"Progress" Pride Flag by Daniel Quasar (quasar.digital LLC)

Questions?

Contact VNSNY CHOICE Provider Relations

Call toll free: **1-866-783-0222**

TTY for the hearing impaired: **711**

Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

**Thank you for being part of the
VNSNY CHOICE Provider network!**

We want to make this publication useful to you. Please let us know what you think! Write to us at CHOICEProviderNews@vnsny.org.

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