



**IMPROVING HEALTH CARE QUALITY**

## Asthma Medication Ratio

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) collects quality data from our providers to measure and improve the quality of care our members receive. Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR) is just one aspect of care we measure in our quality programs. Quality measures evaluate a prior calendar year performance.

### What We Measure

We capture the percentage of members ages 5 to 64 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 year.

A higher rate indicates better performance.

AMR is a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure. See the [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\) website](#) for more details.

### Why It Matters

Asthma is a treatable condition that can save billions of dollars in medical costs if managed properly. 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.



## Eligible Population

Members ages 5 and older as of Dec. 31 of the measurement year are included in this measure.

- Four age groups and a total are reported for this measure: ages 5-11, 12-18, 19-50, and 51-64.

## Exclusions:

- Members in hospice
- Members diagnosed with any of the following: acute respiratory failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis, emphysema, chronic respiratory conditions due to fumes or vapors, or obstructive chronic bronchitis
- Members who were not prescribed any asthma medications

## Tips to Consider

- Review [Asthma Action Plans](#) with members
- Educate members on taking asthma medications correctly
- Explain to members differences between controller and reliever medications
- Reassess a member's asthma symptoms at each visit

## How to Document

Quality data is collected from claims information. Hybrid chart review does not apply.

For more information, see [NCQA's HEDIS Measures and Technical Resources](#).



## Questions?

Contact your BCBSTX Network Representative.



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