Bridges to Excellence® Asthma Care Recognition Program
Provider Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Bridges to Excellence?
Founded in 2002, Bridges to Excellence (BTE) is a not-for-profit company whose mission is to create significant progress in the quality of care in a variety of areas. This is achieved by recognizing and financially rewarding physicians who demonstrate that they provide quality care that meets established guidelines. The BTE programs are administered under the parent company of Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute (HCI3), a nonprofit, national organization.

Is BTE a national program?
BTE is a national program offered in more than 22 states and recognizes thousands of physicians across the United States. Please refer to BTE’s Web site for additional details on all programs offered at www.hci3.org.

What is the BCBSTX Asthma Care Recognition Program?
BCBSTX has collaborated with BTE to implement the Asthma Care Recognition program. BCBSTX has established a program in which BTE recognized physicians can be financially rewarded for excellent care provided to our members with Asthma disease.

Why should I become a BTE Asthma Care recognized physician?
BCBSTX Asthma Care Recognition program offers you the opportunity to evaluate and demonstrate the level of quality of care you deliver. Participating in the program gives you tools to continuously improve your practice, receive national recognition and positive incentives. In addition, your patients will know that they receive care from a physician who has demonstrated delivery of excellent care. Being BTE Asthma Care recognized automatically ensures your participation in the BCBSTX Asthma Care program and the potential to earn financial incentives.

Does obtaining BTE recognition improve the quality of health care?
The BTE Asthma Care Recognition program is designed with an understanding that patients may seek care for asthma conditions from primary care physicians (PCPs) and specialist including Allergist and Pulmonologists for treatment and management of their asthma disease.

BTE’s Asthma Care Recognition requirements assess process measures and outcomes representing high standards of care for patients with asthma disease. BTE believes that the Asthma Care Recognition program has the potential to significantly improve the quality of care experienced by many patients with asthma disease and to reduce the financial and patient burden of unnecessary hospitalizations and complications.
As seen in historical results, BTE believes that if physicians participate in programs where they follow proven, evidence based guidelines and submit data to validate performance, the quality of care of patients with chronic disease states will improve.

**How do I become BTE Asthma Care recognized?**

To attain recognition in the BTE Asthma Care Recognition program, eligible physicians voluntarily submit medical record data demonstrating that they provide high levels of asthma care. There are two different paths available to physicians for Asthma Care recognition. Additional details about these options are available at the HCI3 organization Web site at [www.hci3.org](http://www.hci3.org).

**What measures are evaluated to achieve BTE recognition in Asthma Care?**

- Lung function test and monitoring
- Appropriate medication therapy
- Smoking cessation
- Annual influenza vaccination
- Patient self-management plan

**What are the steps to becoming BTE recognized?**

2. Choose the program
   - Asthma Care Recognition
3. Choose performance assessment pathway that is best for you
4. Apply for Recognition with the pathway chosen
   - Steps to become recognized varies depending on pathway chosen
   - All BTE Recognitions are treated the same, regardless of which pathway you choose

For additional application information, see the Performance Assessment page on BTE’s Web site at [www.hci3.org](http://www.hci3.org).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway</th>
<th>Quantity of Data Submitted</th>
<th>How data is extracted/submitted</th>
<th>Cost to Apply (Individual)</th>
<th>Cost to Apply (Group)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMR/Registry System</td>
<td>Full panel of patients with program condition</td>
<td>EMR or registry vendor will extract patient data from electronic medical record system and submit to MNCM or IPRO on their behalf</td>
<td>No BTE or PAO fee</td>
<td>No BTE or PAO fee</td>
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[www.hci3.org](http://www.hci3.org)
How does the BCBSTX BTE Incentive program work?
Once a physician becomes BTE Asthma Care recognized, BCBSTX will identify our members with asthma disease that the physician manages. Communications will be sent to the physician to obtain biometric information about the member. When that information is received at BCBSTX, the physician will be advised that he/she can submit a claim with a specific code for reimbursement.

What are the biometric requirements for the BCBSTX Asthma incentive?
1. Smoking Status
2. Self Management Plan
3. Asthma assessment and Classification
4. Pulmonary Evaluation

Does the biometrics for BCBSTX have to be controlled in order to receive payment?
No the biometrics does not have to be controlled. We simply want the date and results of the test 12 months prior to the attribution date or 3 months post.

Are members assigned to multiple physicians?
No, a member is assigned to only one physician during a rolling 12 month period

How much is the physician incentive for the BCBSTX Asthma Care Recognition program?
Physicians are eligible to receive $100 per selected patient per year.

Are Blue Card members included in BCBSTX Asthma program?
Blue Card members are not included in the program at this time.

How often will BCBSTX acknowledge new BTE Asthma Care recognized physicians and include them in the program?
BTE will send BCBSTX a file on a monthly basis of the newly recognized physicians. BCBSTX will identify the patients for these physicians and send communications to the physician to initiate the process for this program.

Who should I contact for additional information about BCBSTX BTE Asthma Care Recognition program?
Additional information can be obtained by contacting your PPN Network Representative or by contacting us at (972) 766-6397 or via email at Bridges_to_Excellence@bcbstx.com with any questions.
How do BCBSTX members know if a physician is BTE recognized?
When members use the Provider Finder tool on the BCBSTX Web site, BTE recognized physicians are indicated with the BTE logo beneath their certifications and recognitions listing.

What are the plans to grow the number of physicians that are BTE Asthma Care recognized?
BCBSTX will identify physicians that treat our members with asthma disease and encourage those physicians to become BTE Asthma Care recognized so they can receive rewards through this program.