BCBSTX – Bridges to Excellence®
Asthma Care Program Guide

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) is pleased to offer an innovative program that recognizes Texas physicians who deliver excellent care to patients diagnosed with asthma. Partnering with the Bridges to Excellence (BTE) Asthma Care Recognition program offered by Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute (HCI3), BCBSTX demonstrates our commitment to making health and wellness a priority for our members. This program financially rewards network physicians for their performance and their BTE Asthma Care recognition status.

Goals of the Asthma Care Program

- Improve patient outcomes and their quality of life
- Financially reward physicians who provide excellent care to members with asthma
- Reduce the economic burden of caring for members with asthma
- Link into other established BCBSTX Blue Care Connection medical and dental programs that interact directly with members to improve their health and disease condition

BCBSTX Asthma Program Model

There are two steps to take in order to participate in this incentive program.

Step One: Become a BTE recognized asthma care provider. Although BCBSTX provides guidance and instruction, this first step is between the physician and the BTE organization. BTE collects specific data from your medical records for patients with asthma. This data is scored by CECity’s MedConcert, a performance assessment organization (PAO). A score of 60 out of 100 allows a physician to become recognized for asthma care. There are two pathway options for submitting the data to be scored.

Option One: Have your EMR vendor pull the data and submit it for scoring. You have this option if you use one of the following EMR providers that partners with BTE: Athena Health, eClinicalWorks, Epic, Forward Health Group, GE Centricity, MediTab, or Meridios. The EMR will submit data for all of your patients with asthma who meet the program parameters. Contact the person listed below for your EMR vendor to proceed with this option.
Option Two: Submit data directly on the bte.medconcert.com website. For this option you take a random sample of 25 records of your patients with asthma and enter the requested data at bte.medconcert.com. There is a fee of $145 for an individual physician or $395 for a group of 3 – 20 physicians.

Instructions for Option Two:
1. Go to bte.medconcert.com (there is no www at the beginning) and click “Get Started.”
2. Click “Get Started” again if you have never logged on before. Otherwise log in.
3. Answer the questions to obtain a User ID and Password.
4. Once you are logged in to MedConcert (you are not at the BTE part of the website yet), click on the “Apps” tab at the top of the page.
5. On the Apps page choose “Bridges to Excellence” from the alphabetical list. Once you have selected the BTE app, BTE information will be on your home page for future log-ins.
6. At this point start with the instructions from the User Guide by clicking here. Print these instructions for easy reference.
7. If you encounter technical questions or problems while entering your BTE information, send an email to support@medconcert.com. Please include the following information in your email:
   a. Your Name,
   b. Physician’s Name,
   c. Physician’s NPI,
   d. Email Address,
   e. Phone Number,
   f. User Name for the bte.medconcert.com website and
   g. Describe the problem you are experiencing. The technical team is good about quickly responding to your questions.

You will submit data from patients who:
- Are between ages 5 and 75
- That you have seen for asthma for at least one year
- From ALL insurance populations
BTE Asthma Care Recognition Program Measures, Performance Criteria and Scoring

The following table outlines the measures and criteria used to assess physician performance by the BTE organization when determining Asthma Care Recognition status. The scoring is not per patient but for your entire submission. For example, if you had discussed a self-management plan with 10 of your 25 patients you would receive 8 out of 20 points for that measure. (10 is 40% of 25 patients and 8 is 40% of 20 possible points.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Measures</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
<th>Minimum Criteria</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Process Measures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma Assessment &amp; Classification</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung Function Testing</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication Therapy</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza Vaccination</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Self-Management Plan discussed</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco Cessation Advice and Treatment</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Mass Index</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage of Total Points Needed to Achieve Level I Recognition</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step Two: Participate in the BCBSTX incentive program

- After a physician achieves recognition, he/she is automatically included in the BCBSTX incentive program
- BCBSTX obtains Bridges to Excellence recognized provider list from HCI3 each month
- BCBSTX attributes Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas members with diabetes to their BTE recognized physicians
- BCBSTX loads the patient information on www.txproviderportal.com and mails User Name and Password to first time portal users
- Physician logs in to portal, enters and submits biometric information
- Authorization to file claims is produced on portal once biometric information is submitted
- Physician files claims on the approved patients. BCBSTX pays the incentive through the claims payment system

An explanation of these steps is provided below.

“Attribution” is the process of linking a member to a physician for this program. A member is attributed to a physician every 12 months. How are BCBSTX members attributed to physicians?

Members:

- Must have a Texas address
- A diagnosis code from Appendix A
- Must be 5 years of age or older
- Must have at least one inpatient claim or one face-to-face visit in the last 15 months
- Must be a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas PPO/POS, HMO or retail exchange member
- Program excludes Blue Card (BCBS members from other states), FEP and Medicare eligible members

Physicians:

- Must be an MD or DO and non-Hospital Based
- Must have at least one face to face claim with E&M code
- If member sees multiple providers, then the following hierarchy will apply
  - If there are multiple providers, then greatest number of claim service dates determines selection
  - If still multiple providers, then most recent service date claim
  - If still multiple providers, then select the provider with the largest total allowed dollars
  - If still multiple providers, select the provider using the highest provider ID

Biometrics requested by BCBSTX

- Smoking Status Assessed?
- Asthma Self-Management Plan Discussed?
- Is patient on asthma medication?
- Lung Function Test performed?

To receive the incentive payment for a patient all questions must be answered with smoking status assessed and self-management plan discussed during the 12 months prior to the attribution date stated on the form up to three months after the attribution date.
Filing claims for incentive payment
Once the questionnaires are faxed back to BCBSTX they are reviewed and authorizations to file claims are faxed or emailed back to the physician. Incentive money is paid through the normal claim filing system—file these claims to BCBSTX as you would any other claim. Instructions are provided with the authorizations including:

- Use the authorization date provided as the Date of Service (DOS) on the claim. This date does not represent a visit to your office, it matches the date in our system for a BTE claim.
- Use CPT code 99367 on the claim. BCBSTX uses this code for BTE payments.
- Use patient’s asthma ICD-9 code from your medical records
- Amount billed is $100.00.
- Only file this one service line on BTE claims
- Timely claim filing rules apply to these claims which is one year from the DOS provided.

BCBSTX BTE Incentive Program “Good to Know”

- Your first patient list will be available on www.txproviderportal.com toward the end of the month following your recognition month
- New patients are posted on the portal every six months
- Incentives are paid per patient per year

Contact Information
Most questions can be answered at BCBSTX
Email: bridges_to_excellence@bcbstx.com
Phone: 972-766-6397
Fax: 972-238-7052

Technical issues for bte.medconcert.com
Email at support@medconcert.com and include in your email:
- Name
- Clinician Name
- Clinician NPI
- User Name for bte.medconcert.com
- Email address
- Phone #
- Problem you are experiencing

Questions for the BTE organization at HCI3
Jessica DiLorenzo, Program Implementation Leader
Email: jessica.dilorenzo@hci3.org
Phone: 518-355-2893
Appendix A

Asthma Program ICD-9 Codes

One diagnosis code with at least one CPT code must have been billed in the past 12 months for a patient to be included in the BTE program.

**ICD-9 Codes**
493, 493.0, 493.00, 493.01, 493.02, 493.1, 493.10, 493.11, 493.12, 493.2, 493.20, 493.21, 493.22, 493.8, 493.81, 493.82, 493.9, 493.90, 493.91, 493.92

**CPT Encounter Codes**
99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99341, 99342, 99343, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350

**ICD-10 Codes**
J45—any J45 code