

Memorandum

To: Gold Coast Health Plan Primary Care Providers

From: Nancy R. Wharfield, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Kimberly Timmerman, MHA, CPHQ, Director of Quality Improvement

Re: **Gold Coast Health Plan Asthma Resources and the Thomas Fire**

Date: February 15, 2018

Due to the recent Thomas Fire, Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) would like to highlight asthma resources that are available to your patients who are GCHP members.

According to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that was published in January in the Annals of the American Thoracic Society, asthma costs the U.S. approximately \$82 billion dollars a year. Between 2008 and 2013, approximately 15.4 million people were treated for asthma annually at a per-patient cost of approximately \$3,266.

To help GCHP members manage their asthma, they can be directed to the Plan's Disease Management (DM) Asthma Program.

- Members can call 1-805-437-5588 to enroll in the DM program.
- Providers can refer members directly to the program by:
 - Completing the [Disease Management Program Provider Referral Form](#) and faxing it to 1-855-883-1552 or emailing it to DM@goldchp.org.
 - Calling the DM provider referral line at 1-805-437-5694.

GCHP's Disease Management program offers educational resources for managing asthma, as well as an opportunity to work one-to-one with a nurse coach. Some members may qualify for the Plan's High Risk Asthma Home Assessment Pilot, which is a partnership with Ventura County Public Health. To qualify, members must have had two or more emergency department visits for asthma and/or an in-patient hospitalization with asthma as the primary diagnosis within one year.

Members may be offered initial and follow-up home assessments for asthma triggers that may be impacting their ability to manage their asthma. Community health workers provide the assessments, asthma-friendly cleaning supplies, and education on how to manage asthma and the identified triggers.

If you have any questions, please contact 1-805-437-5694.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the health of GCHP's members.