



2025 Measurement Year

MCAS MEASURE: ASTHMA MEDICATION RATIO (AMR)

Measure Steward: National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

Gold Coast Health Plan's (GCHP) goal is to help its providers gain compliance with their annual Managed Care Accountability Set (MCAS) scores by providing guidance and resources. This tip sheet provides the key components to the MCAS measure, "Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR)."

Measure Description: Measures 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.

Inclusion into the measure can include any of the following four events:

- ▶ At least four outpatient visits, observation visits, telephone visits, e-visits or virtual check-ins, where there was a diagnosis of asthma and the patient received two separate asthma dispensing events.
- ▶ Acute inpatient visits where the patient received a principal diagnosis of asthma.
- ▶ Emergency Department (ED) visits with a principal diagnosis of asthma.
- ▶ At least four asthma medication dispensing events.

Data Collection Method: Administrative¹

AMR Clinical Code Sets

- For billing, reimbursement, and reporting of services completed, submit claims timely with the appropriate medical codes for all clinical conditions evaluated and services completed.

Codes used to identify children and adults diagnosed with asthma.

Description	ICD-10-CM
Asthma	J45.21, J45.22, J45.30, J45.31, J45.32, J45.40, J45.41, J45.42, J45.50, J45.51, J45.52, J45.901, J45.902, J45.909, J45.991, J45.998

Codes used to identify clinic setting where asthma was diagnosed.

[Click here](#) for the list of codes.

Asthma controller medications

Description	Prescription
Antibody Inhibitors	Omalizumab
Anti-interleukin-4	Dupilumab
Anti-interleukin-5	Benralizumab Mepolizumab Reslizumab
Inhaled Steroid Combinations	Budesonide-formoterol Fluticasone-salmeterol Fluticasone-vilanterol Formoterol-mometasone
Inhaled Corticosteroids	Beclomethasone Budesonide Ciclesonide Flunisolide Fluticasone Mometasone



Description	Prescription
Leukotriene Modifiers	Montelukast Zafirlukast Zileuton
Methylxanthines	Theophylline

Asthma reliever medications

Description	Prescriptions
Short-Acting, Inhaled Beta-2 Agonists	Albuterol Levalbuterol

Exclusion Criteria - Members with any of the following conditions are excluded from the AMR measure:

- ▶ Received hospice care during the measurement year.
- ▶ Members who had any of the following conditions during their medical history through Dec. 31, 2023.
- ▶ Added a laboratory claim exclusion to value sets for which laboratory claims should not be used.
- ▶ Members who died any time during the measurement year.
- ▶ Respiratory diseases with different treatment approaches than Asthma Value Set.

Description	ICD-10-CM	ICD-9-CM*
Emphysema	J43.0, J43.1, J43.2, J43.8, J43.9, J98.2, J98.3	492.0, 492.8, 518.1, 518.2
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	J44.0, J44.1, J44.9	493.20, 493.21, 493.22, 496
Obstructive Chronic Bronchitis		491.20, 491.21, 491.22
Chronic Respiratory Conditions Due to Fumes or Vapors	J68.4	506.4
Cystic Fibrosis	E84.0, E84.11, E84.19, E84.8, E84.9	277.00, 277.01, 277.02, 277.03, 277.09
Acute Respiratory Failure	J96.00, J96.01, J96.02, J96.20, J96.21, J96.22	518.81

* ICD-9 codes used for the retrospective claim review prior to the Oct. 1, 2015 implementation of ICD-10 codes.



Best Practices:

- ▶ Use the Inovalon® Provider Enablement Quality Gaps Insight to identify members with gaps in care.
- ▶ Make outreach calls and/or send letters to advise members / parents of the need for a visit.
- ▶ Monitor patients' compliance with medications and the need for reliever and controller medications via telehealth visits. Fill out an Asthma Action Plan with your patients at least once a year.
- ▶ Deliver preventive asthma care at non-asthma related visits, including assessing asthma symptoms to determine if preventive medication action is needed - especially for medically underserved populations where access to health care can be challenging.
- ▶ Prescribe a controller medication each time you prescribe a rescue inhaler.
- ▶ Prescribe extra rescue inhaler for school. Prescribe a controller medication each time you prescribe a rescue inhaler. If both inhalers (of the same medication) are picked up at the same time, it will count as one dispensing event.
- ▶ Increase asthma medication compliance by:
 - Providing education regarding the difference between a rescue inhaler versus a controller.
 - Creating a patient-centered interaction by listening and incorporating patients' opinions into an asthma action plan.
- ▶ Information about the Asthma Management Guidelines are available at the [National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute \(NHLI\)](#).
- ▶ GCHP's team of nurses, social workers and care management coordinators work together to empower members to exercise their options and access the services appropriate to meet their individual health needs to promote quality outcomes. GCHP Care Management includes complex and non-complex care management that offers transition to adult services, disease-specific education, identification of social determinants of health and linkage to appropriate resources in the community.
 - To learn more, please call GCHP's Care Management Team at:
 - » Providers, call: 1-805-437-5777
 - » Members, call: 1-805-437-5656
 - » GCHP website, Care Management: [Click Here](#)
- ▶ GCHP offers free health education services, materials, classes, and online resources to help members achieve a healthy lifestyle. Providers can contact the Health Education Department or refer patients / guardians / caregivers to the following information:
 - Providers, call: 1-805-437-5961
 - Members, call: 1-888-301-1228 / TTY 1-888-310-7347
 - GCHP website, Health Education Resources (provided in English and Spanish): [Click Here](#)

¹ Measures reported using the *administrative* data collection method report on the entire eligible population and use only administrative data sources (e.g. claims, encounter, lab, immunization registries) to evaluate if services were performed.