



## QI Weekly



### Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR)

- Nationwide, Americans make approximately 1.8 million asthma-related outpatient visits to the Emergency Department annually, which amounts to an average of nine ED visits for every 100 Americans with asthma.
- Asthma is estimated to cost the United States \$56 billion annually and specifically accounts for \$50.1 billion in direct healthcare costs.

#### Asthma Medication Ratio

**Patient Population:** Patients ages 5 to 64 years old who have been identified as having persistent asthma

**Service Needed:** Ratio of controller medications to total asthma medications must be 50% or greater during the measurement year

(Units of Controller Medication)

(Units of Controller Medication + Units of Reliever Medication)

#### **Exclusions:**

- Patients with emphysema, COPD, obstructive chronic bronchitis, chronic respiratory conditions due to fumes/vapors, cystic fibrosis, or acute respiratory failure
- Patients with no asthma controller or reliever dispensed during the year
- Patients receiving hospice care

#### **Qualifying Asthma Diagnoses:**

- Mild intermittent asthma
- Mild, moderate, or severe persistent asthma
- Unspecified asthma
- Exercise-induced bronchospasm
- Cough variant asthma
- Other asthma



#### Tips for Managing Asthma and Medication Adherence

- Educate patients on the difference between asthma controller and asthma reliever medications
- Develop an asthma plan with patients to reduce triggers and create an asthma-friendly home environment
- Encourage patients to continue filling and taking asthma controller medications as directed even if they feel ok
- Review the Asthma Care Quick Reference guide to learn more about patient education for self-management:

[https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/guidelines/asthma\\_qrg.pdf](https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/guidelines/asthma_qrg.pdf)