The Asthma Care Coverage Project: Improving Access to Comprehensive and Consistent Asthma Care

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Agenda

1. Background on Asthma Care Coverage Project

2. 2018 Medicaid Coverage of Guidelines-Based Asthma Care

3. Asthma Care Coverage Project Advocacy Activities for 2018

4. Additional Resources & Questions
The Asthma Care Coverage Project
Goal: Improve access to guidelines-based asthma care and ultimately improve health outcomes for individuals living with asthma.

• Collect data on current Medicaid coverage through the Asthma Guidelines-Based Care Coverage Project

• Advocate for comprehensive and consistent asthma care coverage in Medicaid programs at the state level
Asthma & Medicaid

• Adults in Medicaid are almost twice as likely to have asthma as those with private health insurance

• For people aged 18-44, Medicaid is the primary payer for asthma-related hospital stays

• Half of all children with asthma in the United States get their health insurance coverage through Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
Asthma & Medicaid

- Over 67 million Americans receive health care coverage through the Medicaid program

- This includes low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults and people with disabilities

- While Medicaid is jointly financed by states and the federal government, each state administers its own Medicaid program

- Many states cover individuals through a fee-for-service program as well as through managed care plans
2018 Medicaid Coverage of Guidelines-Based Asthma Care
Guidelines-Based Care Coverage

Project

- The American Lung Association tracks coverage of and related barriers to asthma guidelines-based care annually

- Project collects data on both fee-for-service and managed care plans

- Tracks seven components of coverage and nine barriers to coverage

- Based on the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) Guideline recommendations
Guidelines-Based Care Coverage Project

National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) Guidelines

1. Assessment and Monitoring of Patients with Asthma
2. Education about Asthma Self-Management
3. Control of Environmental Exposures that Affect Asthma
4. Medications to Treat Asthma

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7232/
# Guidelines-Based Care Coverage Project

## Components of Coverage
1. Quick Relief Medications
2. Controller Medications
3. Medical Devices
4. Allergy Testing
5. Allergen Immunotherapy
6. Home Visits and Interventions
7. Self-Management Education

## Barriers to Care
1. Age limits
2. Age restrictions
3. Co-payments
4. Durable medical equipment
5. Eligibility criteria
6. Prior authorization
7. Quantity limits
8. Specialty visit limitations
9. Stepped therapy
Guidelines-Based Care Coverage Project

Methodology

1. Data Collection
   • Documents Reviewed

2. Data Confirmation
   • State Medicaid Contacts
2018 Medicaid Coverage of Guidelines-Based Asthma Care

Asthma Care Coverage Database

The American Lung Association tracks seven areas of guidelines-based asthma care coverage in state Medicaid programs.

Use the dropdown menu and/or map to view the information for each state. Select a state:

Find Your State...

The American Lung Association tracks coverage of asthma guidelines-based care in state Medicaid programs.
2018 Medicaid Coverage of Guidelines-Based Asthma Care

Example:

2018 Medicaid Coverage of Guidelines-Based Asthma Care

Example:

Medicaid Coverage Status: 2018

Medicaid Coverage for Quick Relief Medications

- Map will be released in June 2018 (similar to http://www.lung.org/assets/documents/asthma/1-Quick-Relief-Medications-Map.pdf)
Medicaid Coverage Status: 2018

Medicaid Coverage for Controller Medications

• Map will be released in June 2018
Medicaid Coverage Status: 2018

Medicaid Coverage for Devices

- Map will be released in June 2018
Medicaid Coverage Status: 2018

Medicaid Coverage for Allergy Testing*

- Map will be released in June 2018

*Includes Skin and In Vitro Testing
Medicaid Coverage Status: 2018

Medicaid Coverage for Allergen Immunotherapy

• Map will be released in June 2018
Medicaid Coverage Status: 2018
Medicaid Coverage for Home Visits & Interventions

- Map will be released in June 2018
Medicaid Coverage for Self-Management Education

- Map will be released in June 2018
Challenges

• Transparency

• Uniformity of coverage

• Barriers to care
Asthma Care Coverage Project
Advocacy Activities for 2018
Advocacy Activities for 2018

**Build**
- Stakeholder mobilization and finding additional stakeholders

**Assess**
- Determine priorities of what needs to change in your state

**Educate/Advocate**
- Educate decision makers on need for access to asthma guidelines-based care and advocate for changes
Advocacy Activities for 2018

Build & Mobilize a Coalition

• Does your state have an existing asthma coalition? Build off that!

• Who’s Missing? The more stakeholders at the table, the more power you have
  • Examples: Medicaid groups/coalitions; organizations representing healthcare providers like physicians or nurses; or organizations representing populations impacted by asthma

• Finding Champions
Assess Asthma Care Coverage in Your State

• Use the Lung Association’s coverage data for your state to help determine what needs to change

• Diverse set of stakeholders in your coalition = can better assess what will best improve the health of those who live with asthma

• Coverage under state Medicaid programs may be lacking in multiple areas – which ones are most important?
Educate/Advocate for Change

• Tactics can include, but are not limited to:
  • Sign-on letters and in-person meetings with Medicaid programs and managed care plans
  • Collecting personal stories from people with asthma or healthcare providers
  • Media advocacy – press releases, LTEs, social media

• We have factsheets and template sign-on letters to Medicaid that can also be used in other states
  • Please contact us to obtain materials outside of the six states
Additional Resources
Additional Resources

• Visit us at www.lung.org/asthma-care-coverage.

• Updated links to all of our data and materials will be added in June 2018.
Questions?
THANK YOU
Lung.org/asthma-care-coverage

Questions?
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