

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

Hannah Green, M.P.H.
National Director, Health Policy

Association of Asthma Educators Annual Conference
July 21, 2018

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

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

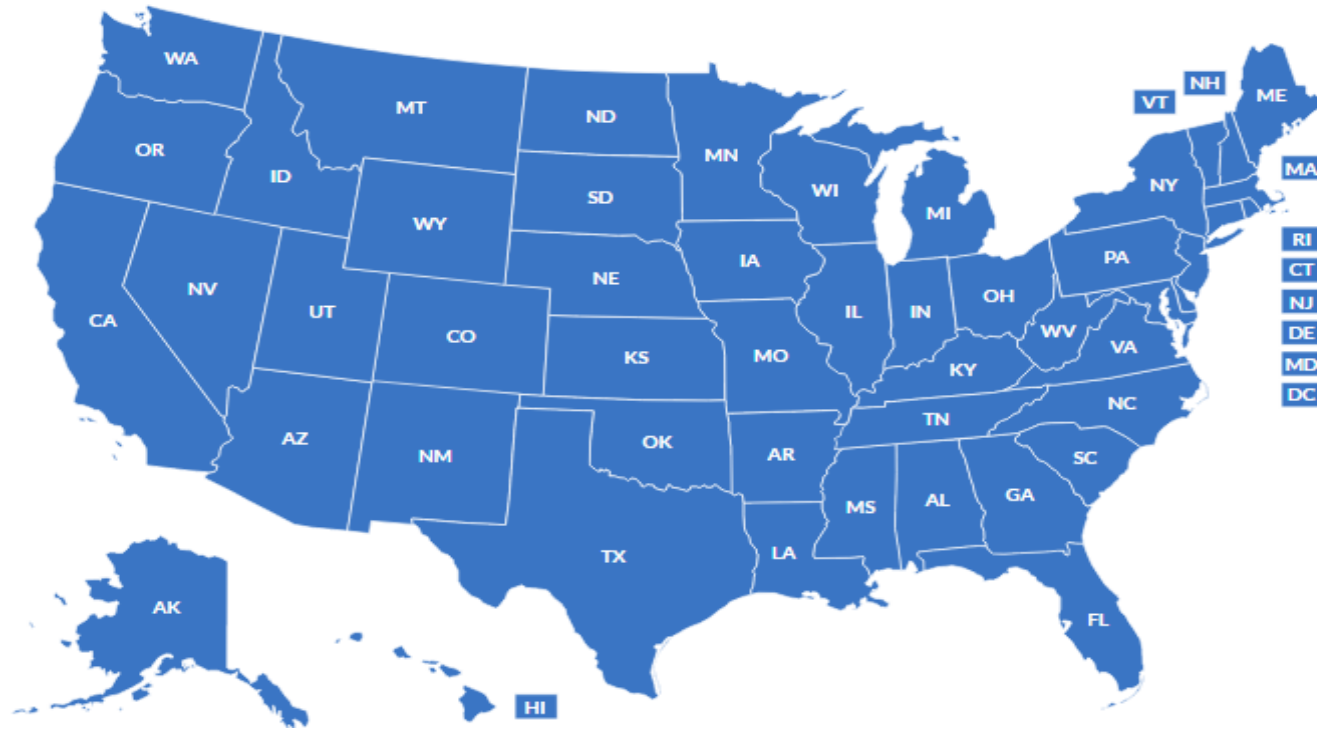
Care

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

State
Data
Summary
Report

Example:

Will be available in June 2018 – example - <http://www.lung.org/lung-health-and-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/asthma/asthma-education-advocacy/asthma-care-coverage/database/state.html?id=2>

2018 Medicaid Coverage of Guidelines-Based Asthma

Care

State
Data
Summary
Report

Example:

Will be available in June 2018 – example - <http://webservices.lung.org:8000/state-pdf/2>

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 Status: 2018

Medicaid Coverage for Self-Management Education

- Map will be released in June 2018

2018 Medicaid Coverage of Guidelines-Based Asthma Care

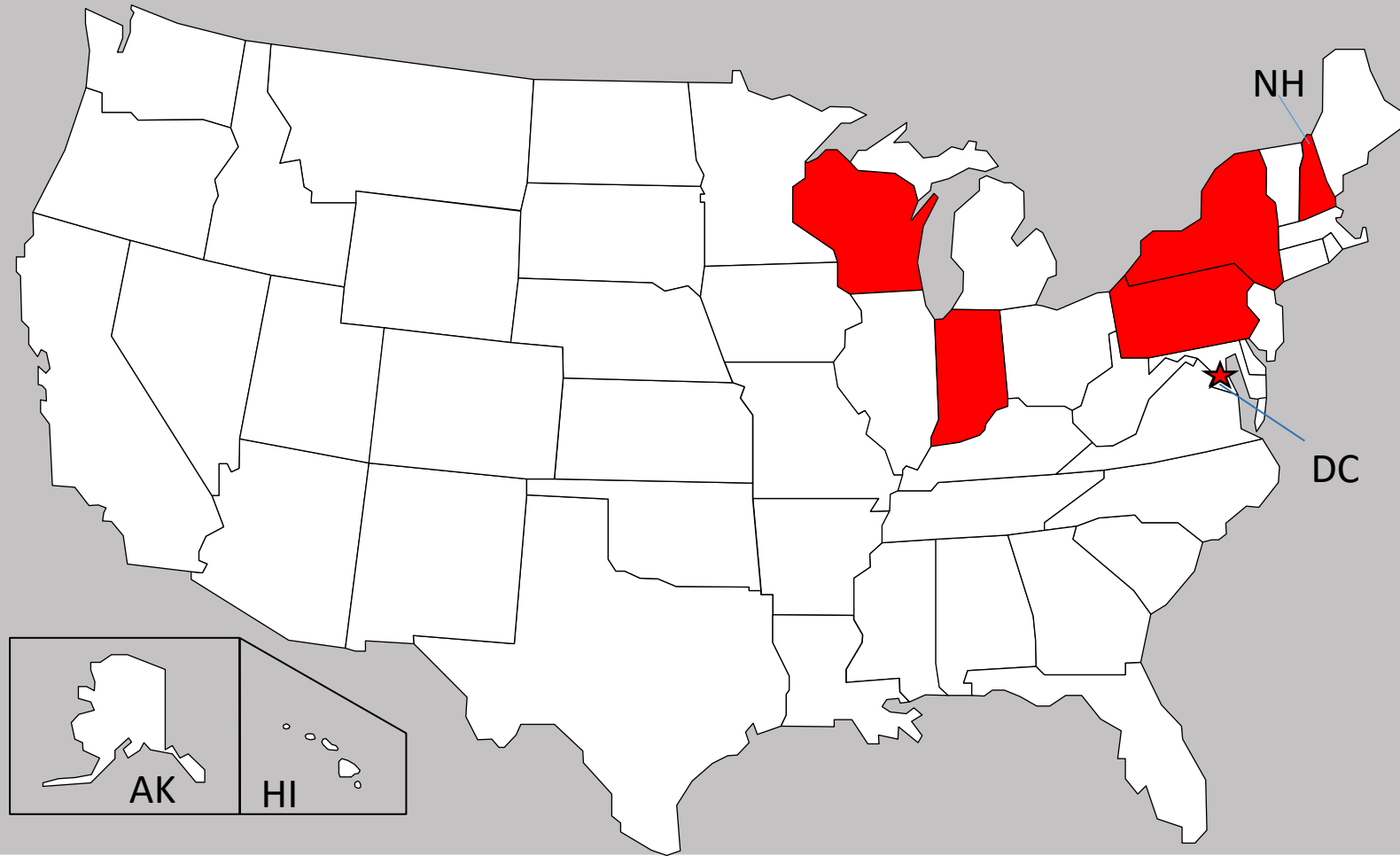
Challenges

- Transparency
- Uniformity of coverage
- Barriers to care



Asthma Care Coverage Project Advocacy Activities for 2018

Asthma Care Coverage Project States 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

Advocacy Activities for 2018

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?

Advocacy Activities for 2018

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.

A photograph of a piece of white lined paper with the word "Questions?" written in black cursive. A black marker is visible in the bottom right corner, having just finished writing the question mark. A long, thin, curved line is drawn below the word.

THANK YOU

[Lung.org/asthma-care-coverage](https://lung.org/asthma-care-coverage)

Questions?

asthmacare@lung.org