



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Valued Medicaid Providers

**FROM:** El Paso Health

**DATE:** April 5, 2021

**RE:** Guidance on Asthma Education Coverage in Medicaid and CHIP

Asthma education is important for children and their families to improve asthma control. To encourage the utilization of asthma education, HHSC is requesting to remind providers of current Medicaid and CHIP coverage of asthma education.

### **Medicaid Coverage**

Medicaid managed care organizations (MCO) must cover services in the same amount, duration, and scope as Medicaid fee-for service, as described in the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM). El Paso Health additionally offers members one allergy free pillow case to Members enrolled in the Asthma Disease Management Program as a value-added service. To find out more about our program visit our website or call 915-532-3778 x1500.

### **Asthma Education in the Home Setting**

Certified respiratory care practitioners who are physician providers, home health agencies or respiratory therapists may provide asthma education in the home setting. The respiratory care practitioner must be certified by the National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB) as a certified asthma educator.

For a member age 0-20 with a chronic underlying respiratory illness, or a newly diagnosed long term respiratory condition that is currently resulting in a suboptimal respiratory status, procedure codes S9441 or 98960 are payable for services rendered in the patient's home with the following limitations:

- S9441 and 98960 are payable for ages 0-20 only.
- S9441 and 98960 are each limited to once per day, by any provider, and twice per lifetime.
- S9441 and 98960 will not be reimbursed in any combination if submitted on the same date of service by any provider. Please refer to TMPPM Certified Respiratory Care Practitioner (CRCP) Services Handbook



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### **Group Clinical Visit for Asthma**

Physicians, or other qualified health care professionals including Advanced Practice Nurses (NP, CNS) or Physician Assistants (PAs), as well as Registered Nurses in both the office and outpatient hospital setting may provide Group Clinical Visits, for clinical services and educational counseling to a group of clients with asthma. Procedure code 99078 (educational services provided in a group clinical setting visits by physician, or other qualified health care professional) is payable for all ages covered for Texas Medicaid.

- Group visits must be at least one hour and no longer than 2 hours with a minimum of 2 clients and maximum of 20 clients.
- Group visits for conditions of asthma are limited to a maximum of four per year for any provider.
- Group visits are only for established patients and must include CDC-approved Asthma Education and Prevention Programs.

Group clinical visits are benefits of Texas Medicaid for the management of the condition of asthma when submitted with the following diagnoses codes: J440, J441, J449, J4520, J4521, J4522, J4530, J4531, J4532, J4540, J4541, J4542, J4550, J4551, J4552, J45901, J45902, J45909, J45990, J45991, J45998.

Please refer to TMPPM Medical and Nursing Specialists, Physicians, and Physician Assistants Handbook, Chapter 9.2.56.2 Group Clinical Visits and Chapter 9.2.56.3 Group Clinical Visits for Asthma.

### **Asthma Education via Telemedicine or Telehealth**

Medicaid may reimburse for remote delivery of asthma education with modifier 95. Medicaid is prohibited by law from denying reimbursement for an otherwise medically necessary Medicaid covered benefit solely because the service was delivered remotely.

Remote group clinical visits for asthma education may be billed using 99078 with modifier 95. Individual asthma education may be billed using S9441 or 98960 with modifier 95.

### **CHIP Coverage**

Asthma Education is covered by CHIP under Physician/Physician Extender Professional Services. CHIP coverage includes remote delivery as telehealth or telemedicine services. CHIP MCOs may reimburse for remote delivery of asthma education with modifier 95. A CHIP MCO may choose to cover additional asthma education services as a value-added service.



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### **Additional Information**

S9441- Asthma education, non-physician provider, per session.

98960- Education and training for patient self-management by a qualified, non-physician health care professional using a standardized curriculum, face-to-face with the patient (could include caregiver/family) each 30 minutes.

99078- Educational services provided in a group clinical setting visits by physician, or other qualified health care professional.

### **Resources:**

**El Paso Health Case Management Program-** <http://www.elpasohealth.com/our-case-management-program/>

**TMPPM:** [Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual — March 2021 \(tmhp.com\)](https://www.tmhpa.com/tx/medicaid/providers/procedures-manual)

**TMPPM Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative Portal:** [Texas Healthcare Learning Collaborative \(thlcportal.com\)](https://www.thlcportal.com/)

**DSHS Asthma Program:** [Asthma Program Home \(state.tx.us\)](https://www.state.tx.us/dshs/asthma)

**DSHS Resource: Emergency Department Visit Rates for Asthma, Child Asthma, and Adult Asthma by Demographics, Public Health Region, County, and Total Charges by Primary Payer, Texas 2018:**

[Asthma EmergTables Texas 2018.xlsx \(aapc-cm-bigfiles.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://www.aapc-cm-bigfiles.s3.amazonaws.com/AsthmaEmergTablesTexas2018.xlsx)

Please contact our Provider Relations Department at 915-532-3778 for any questions regarding this information.