

**Summary of Reimbursement for Asthma Services
For Children Covered on Minnesota Health Care Programs
2004**

Introduction: The purpose of this grid is to provide simplified information on benefit coverage for children with asthma covered on Minnesota Health Care Programs (MinnesotaCare and PMAP) under contract with Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Health Plans were asked the following questions (A-E). Their answers are summarized in the chart below:

- (A) Does your health plan reimburse physicians for asthma education?
- (B) Does your health plan reimburse non-physician providers (such as registered nurse, respiratory therapist or pharmacist) for asthma education?
- (C) Does your health plan reimburse for well-asthma visits, meaning a co-pay is not assessed?
- (D) Does your health plan provide reimbursement for in-home medical asthma visits?
- (E) Does your health plan currently reimburse for group asthma visits and education?

Health Plan	Asthma Education		"Well Child" Asthma Visits ^{1(C)}	Home Visits ^{2(D)}	Group Visits ^{3(E)}
	Physician Providers ^(A)	Non-Physician Providers ^(B)			
Blue Cross Blue Shield/Blue Plus of Minnesota First Plan of Minnesota	Yes, as part of an office visit	Yes, if part of office visit	No, in general	Yes, if physician certifies patient status	Yes
HealthPartners	Yes, as part of an office visit	Yes. Registered nurse, respiratory therapist only	No, in general	Yes, if physician certifies patient status	Yes
Medica	Yes, as part of an office visit	Yes, if by a nationally certified asthma educator (for group or individual session).	No, in general	Yes, if physician certifies patient status	Yes
Metropolitan Health Plan	Yes, as part of an office visit	Yes, if by a nationally certified asthma educator, or a respiratory therapist.	No, in general	Yes, if physician certifies patient status	Yes
PreferredOne	Yes, as part of an office visit	No	No, in general	Yes, if physician certifies patient status	Yes
UCare Minnesota	Yes, as part of an office visit	No	No, in general	Yes, if physician certifies patient status	Yes

Notes:

1. Asthma visits are considered a chronic illness management visit, not a preventive visit. Children on PMAP & MinnesotaCare are not assessed co-pays. However, children on the MNCare Limited Benefit Set are assessed a \$5 co-pay for non-preventive care visits. (For children on commercial products, an asthma-focused visit will most likely generate a co-pay but there are no co-pays for preventive visits. If asthma care is part of a well child visit, a co-pay would most likely not be assessed unless additional time is needed and an office visit is coded.)
2. Yes, but the person needs to be homebound. A physician must authorize home visits and care is provided by medical professionals or agencies.
3. DHS Program Provider Manual, CH 6: Physician services in a group setting, 6/24/04.

General Information:

- The data in the grid reflect information gathered in March 2004 and updated November 2004. Information is subject to change.
- Health Plans were asked individually to provide the information on the grid. Individual contract benefits may vary.
- This grid was prepared by the Minnesota Council of Health Plans, as part of a CDC cooperative agreement, "Controlling Asthma in American Cities," administered by the American Lung Association of Minnesota. For more information, contact Janny Brust brust@mnhealthplans.org. Minnesota Council of Health Plans: Blue Cross Blue Shield/Blue Plus of Minnesota, First Plan of Minnesota, HealthPartners, Medica, Metropolitan Health Plan, PreferredOne, Sioux Valley Hospitals and Health System, UCare Minnesota

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