

Authorization Guide for Asthma Remediation

Environmental asthma trigger remediations are physical modifications to a home environment that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the individual or enable the individual to function in the home and without which acute asthma episodes could result in the need for emergency services and hospitalization.

Members must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Asthma Remediation service:

| Eligibility | Restrictions |
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| <p>Individuals with poorly controlled asthma as determined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emergency department visit or hospitalization; or • Two sick or urgent care visits in the past 12 months; or • A score of 19 or lower on the asthma control test. • For which a licensed health care provider has documented that the service will likely avoid asthma-related hospitalizations, emergency department visits or other high-cost services. • The services are available in a home that is owned, rented, leased or occupied by the member or their caregiver. | <p>If another state plan service, such as durable medical equipment, is available and would accomplish the same goals of preventing asthma emergencies or hospitalizations.</p> <p>Asthma remediation must be conducted in accordance with applicable state and local building codes.</p> |
| Required documentation | Member education |
| <p>The managed care plan must receive and document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A current licensed health care provider’s order specifying the requested remediation(s) for the member. • A brief written evaluation specific to the member describing how and why the remediation(s) meets the needs of the individual; required for cases of other interventions identified to be medically appropriate and cost-effective. • A home visit has been conducted to determine the suitability of any requested remediation(s) for the member. • Cost of assessment and modification. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of environmental triggers commonly found in and around the home, including allergens and irritants. • Using dust-proof mattress and pillow covers, HEPA vacuums, asthma-friendly cleaning products, dehumidifiers, and air filters. • Health-related minor home repairs such as pest management or patching holes and cracks through which pests can enter. |

| For permanent adaptations or installations | Examples of asthma remediation |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before commencement of a permanent physical adaptation to the home or installation of equipment in the home, such as installation of an exhaust fan or replacement of moldy drywall, the managed care plan must provide the owner and member with written documentation that the modifications are permanent, and that the state is not responsible for maintenance or repair of any modification nor for removal of any modification if the member ceases to reside at the residence. • This requirement does not apply to the provision of supplies that are not permanent adaptations or installations, including but not limited to: allergen-impermeable mattress and pillow dust covers; high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtered vacuums; de-humidifiers; portable air filters; and asthma-friendly cleaning products and supplies. • Asthma remediation that is a physical adaptation to a residence must be performed by an individual holding a California contractor’s license. • Medi-Cal managed care plans must apply minimum standards to ensure adequate experience and acceptable quality of care standards are maintained. Medi-Cal managed care plans shall monitor the provision of all the services included above. • All allowable providers must be approved by the managed care organization to ensure adequate experience and appropriate quality of care standards are maintained. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergen-impermeable mattress and pillow dustcovers. • High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtered vacuums. • Integrated Pest Management (IPM) services. • De-humidifiers. • Air filters. • Other moisture-controlling interventions. • Minor mold removal and remediation services. • Ventilation improvements. • Asthma-friendly cleaning products and supplies. • Other interventions identified to be medically appropriate and cost effective. |
| <p>Total lifetime maximum: \$7,500</p> <p>Asthma remediations are payable up to a total lifetime maximum of \$7,500. The only exception to the \$7,500 total maximum is if the member’s condition has changed so significantly that additional modifications are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the member, or are necessary to enable the member to function with greater independence in the home and avoid institutionalization or hospitalization.</p> <p>Asthma remediation modifications are limited to those that are of direct medical or remedial benefit to the member and exclude adaptations or improvements that are of general utility to the household. Remediations may include finishing (e.g., drywall and painting) to return the home to a habitable condition, but do not include aesthetic embellishments.</p> | |

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| Code: S5165 U5- Home modifications; per service | |
| Unit of Service: Cap | |
| State services to be avoided: State plan services to be avoided include but are not limited to inpatient and outpatient hospital services and emergency department services. | |
| Allowable providers: Providers must have experience and expertise with providing these unique services. ¹ | |
| Useful Links | |
| Asthma trigger | https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/triggers.html |
| Trigger training | https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-06/home_characteristics_and_asthma_triggers_training_for_home_visitors_0.pptx |
| Home assessment checklist | https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/home_assess_checklist_P.pdf |

¹Examples of possible providers: lung health organizations, healthy housing organizations, local health departments, community-based providers and organizations.