

## Quality Measure Resource Guide: Asthma Medication Ratio

### Measure Title: Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR)

#### Measure Description:

This measure assesses the percentage of patients aged 5-64 with persistent asthma who have a ratio of controller medications to total asthma medications of 0.50 or greater during the measurement year.

#### Why This Measure Matters:

This measure is crucial because it tracks the effective management of asthma, a common chronic condition. Proper medication management reduces the risk of asthma attacks, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations, thereby improving patient quality of life and reducing healthcare costs. High compliance with this measure indicates effective asthma management and contributes to better health outcomes for individuals with asthma.

#### Implementable Strategies

##### 1. Regular Monitoring and Assessment:

- Conduct regular reviews of patient medication use to ensure an appropriate balance between controller and rescue medications.
- Use clinical decision support tools to identify patients who may need adjustments in their medication regimen.

##### 2. Patient Education and Self-Management:

- Educate patients and caregivers about the importance of using controller medications as prescribed.
- Provide self-management plans and asthma action plans to help patients recognize symptoms and take appropriate actions.

##### 3. Care Coordination:

- Implement coordinated care approaches involving primary care providers, pulmonologists, and pharmacists to optimize asthma management.
- Use electronic health records to facilitate communication and follow-up among care team members.

#### Tools and Resources

- **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Asthma Guidelines:** [NHLBI Asthma Guidelines](#)
- **Asthma Action Plans:** [Asthma Action Plans](#)
- **Patient Education Materials:** [CDC Asthma Resources](#)

#### Evaluation Criteria

**Eligible Clinicians:**

- Primary Care Providers
- Pulmonologists
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physician Assistants

**Measure Reporting:**

- **Submission Methods:** Electronic Health Record (EHR), Registry

**Numerator:**

- Number of patients in the denominator who have a medication ratio of 0.50 or greater. This ratio is calculated as follows:
  - **Controller Medications:** Inhaled corticosteroids, long-acting beta-agonists, leukotriene modifiers, etc.
  - **Total Asthma Medications:** Sum of controller medications and rescue medications (short-acting beta-agonists).

**Denominator:**

- All patients aged 5-64 who have persistent asthma and are identified during the measurement year.

**Exclusions:**

- Patients with a diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or other chronic respiratory conditions that may complicate asthma management.

**Rate Calculation:**

- **Formula:**  $(\text{Numerator} / \text{Denominator}) \times 100$

**Reporting Requirements:**

- **Data Collection Strategy:** Data for this measure can be derived from electronic health records, pharmacy claims data, or direct data submissions from healthcare providers.
- **Reporting Frequency:** Annually

**Improvement Notation:**

Higher scores indicate better performance, i.e., a higher percentage of patients with an appropriate ratio of controller to total asthma medications.