

Asthma self-management education — a pilot program

Summary of change: We have partnered with the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide in-home asthma self-management education and home/environmental assessments to improve asthma control in our members.

What this means to you: No action is necessary. This update is for your information.

The Georgia Asthma Control Program

The Georgia DPH created the Georgia Asthma Control Program to carry out statewide initiatives to address asthma in Georgia. The DPH will partner with Amerigroup Community Care to educate parents and children on the basics of asthma, asthma management, self-management strategies and interventions. They will also be educated on the most common triggers of asthma, help families identify and assess triggers that may exist in their homes and illustrate simple techniques to remove those triggers. Parents and/or caregivers will also receive free materials and resources, hypoallergenic bedding, and smoking cessation classes to help protect their children.

What is the impact of this change?

As we work together, you may:

- Have increased interaction with your patients.
- Be called to share medical information you have on file.
- Receive status updates regarding your patient's asthma control status.
- Be asked to complete an *Asthma Action Plan*.
- Asked to discuss the patient's need for an asthma controller medication.

Members will receive:

- Four in-home visits from a DPH health educator, including an environmental/home assessment by a DPH environmental health specialist.
- Asthma self-management education.
- Tobacco/smoking cessation assistance.
- Hypoallergenic pillow and bedding encasements (as needed).
- Referrals to Disease Management and community health organizations (as needed).

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication, received this fax in error or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services toll free at 1-800-454-3730.