

Measure #2: Tobacco Smoke Exposure: Screening

Asthma

Measure Description

Percentage of patients aged 5 years and older with a diagnosis of asthma (or their primary caregiver) who were queried about tobacco smoke exposure at least once during the measurement period

Measure Components

Numerator Statement	Patients (or their primary caregiver) who were queried about tobacco smoke exposure* at least once during the measurement period * Tobacco smoke exposure includes smoking tobacco AND environmental tobacco smoke exposure in the home, workplace, school or other environments
Denominator Statement	All patients aged 5 years and older with a diagnosis of asthma
Denominator Exclusion(s)	None
Denominator Exception(s)	None
Supporting Guideline	The following evidence statements are quoted <u>verbatim</u> from the referenced clinical guidelines. NHLBI/NAEPP Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma ⁴ The Expert Panel recommends that clinicians advise persons who have asthma not to smoke or be exposed to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). (Evidence C) Query patients about their smoking status and specifically consider referring to smoking cessation programs adults who smoke and have young children who have asthma in the household. (Evidence B)

Measure Importance

Relationship to desired outcome

Patients with asthma who smoke or are exposed to secondhand smoke are at greater risk for experiencing increased frequency in asthma symptoms, a decrease in lung function, and an increased use of health services.^{8,9} Despite these risks, approximately 21% of people with asthma smoke.¹⁰ A reported 53% of children with asthma are exposed to ETS and 17.6% have in-home exposure; low income children have higher prevalence of exposure to ETS.¹¹

Identifying patients who smoke or who are exposed to environmental or secondhand smoke is the first step towards providing smoking cessation intervention. There is evidence that tobacco screening and brief cessation intervention (including counseling and pharmacotherapy) in both the primary care setting and hospital settings is successful in helping tobacco users quit.¹²

Opportunity for Improvement While there are little to no data specific to how often asthmatics are asked about tobacco use or exposure to secondhand smoke, a study published in 2006 found

- 43% of patients had smoking status documented at least once
- 61% of patients that were documented smokers had their smoking status indicated on more than 50% of office visits.¹³

Exception Justification This measure has no exceptions.

Harmonization with Existing Measures This measure was harmonized to the extent feasible with existing performance measures for screening for tobacco use or tobacco smoke exposure.

Measure Designation

Measure purpose	Quality Improvement Accountability
Type of measure	Process
Care setting	Ambulatory Care: Clinician Office Clinic
Data source	Administrative Claims Registry Electronic Health Record System