

Authorization Guide for Asthma Preventive Services

Asthma Preventive Services (APS) provides asthma education in clinics and at home, along with in-home checks for environmental triggers. These services are available to eligible Medi-Cal members of any age when medically necessary and must follow federal and state requirements. Under 42 CFR §440.130(c), a physician or other licensed health professional must recommend APS within their legal scope of practice.

Program overview	Eligibility
Asthma education includes: • Basic facts about asthma. • Proper use of long-term controllers and quick-relief medications. • Evidence-based self-management and monitoring techniques. • Actions to reduce environmental exposures that worsen symptoms. In-home environmental trigger assessment involves: • Identifying common asthma triggers in and around the home (allergens, irritants). • Guiding education on reducing or controlling these exposures. Poorly controlled asthma is defined as: 1. Asthma control test score of 19 or lower, or 2. Asthma-related emergency room visit or hospitalization, or 3. Two urgent/sick care visits for asthma in the past 12 months.	Eligibility APS must be recommended by a licensed practitioner (physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant) within their scope of practice. All Medi-Cal members with an asthma diagnosis may receive self-management education. In-home trigger assessments require: • A current diagnosis of poorly controlled asthma, or • Recommendation from a licensed practitioner. Use the Asthma Preventive Services Authorization Request Form to recommend a member for services. The request form is available at https://bit.ly/CalAIM-Providers, in the Forms & Tools section under Community Supports (CS).
Billing information	
In-home environmental trigger assessment • HCP/CS code: T1028 (assessment of home/family environment, to determine suitability to meet patient's medical needs) is used for environmental trigger assessment. • May be provided by licensed or unlicensed APS providers. • Limit: Two visits per year; additional visits require authorization request demonstrating medical necessity for additional visits and/or when there has been a change of primary residence. Use the Asthma Preventive Services Authorization Request Form for additional visit requests. • Place of service codes: 12 (home), 13 (assisted living facility), 14 (group home). • Use modifier U3 for APS providers • Include appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes.	

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Asthma education

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- Physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants may bill using standard Evaluation and Management CPT codes,
- Unlicensed APS providers use:
 - **98960** – Individual education (30 min)
 - **98961** – Group education (2–4 patients, 30 min)
 - **98962** – Group education (5–8 patients, 30 min)
- **Frequency:** Up to four units (two hours) per day, twice per year; additional visits require authorization. Use the Asthma Preventive Services Authorization Request Form for additional visit requests.
- Use **modifier U3** for APS providers. For more information on allowable modifiers, refer to the [Modifiers Used with Procedure Codes](https://bit.ly/procedure-code-modifiers) at <https://bit.ly/procedure-code-modifiers>.
- Include appropriate **ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes**.

Additional information

Key updates on APS and Community Supports (CS):

- Refer to the [Medi-Cal Provider Manual for APS](https://bit.ly/Medi-CalAsthmaPreventiveServices) at <https://bit.ly/Medi-CalAsthmaPreventiveServices>.
- Refer to the [Medi-Cal Provider Manual for Community Health Worker Preventive Services](https://bit.ly/chwps-ops-manual) at <https://bit.ly/chwps-ops-manual>.
- The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has removed in-home environmental trigger assessments and asthma self-management education from the Asthma Remediation CS program; these services are now offered under APS, launched July 2022.
- CalAIM requires CS to supplement—not replace—other funded services. To comply, DHCS will update the Asthma Remediation CS, effective **January 1, 2026**. Managed Care Plans must cover asthma self-management education and in-home trigger assessments under APS; these will no longer be covered under CS.
- Asthma Remediation providers must enroll in Medi-Cal to continue delivering these services under APS.
- APS covers clinic-based and home-based asthma self-management education, plus in-home environmental trigger assessments to identify modifications or supplies that reduce asthma episodes. Asthma Remediation should supplement—not duplicate—the APS benefit.