# Asthma Education Benefit Description

## Clinical Health Education Benefit

Alliance members may access comprehensive asthma self-management education through Alliance-approved local education programs. [See page 3 for a list of Alliance-approved asthma education programs.](#) Approved education programs follow the National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines for asthma management. Instruction covers the disease process and daily management of the disease to avoid hospitalization and complications. Education is provided and/or supervised by an Alliance-approved Respiratory Therapist (RT) or an Asthma Educator-Certified (AE-C).

**No RAF or TAR is required for the basic program as outlined below.** Physicians should include relevant medical history when referring patients. Alliance members may also self-refer or be referred by Alliance Staff. The education provider may contact the physician for additional information. For more information about this benefit, call the Alliance Health Education line at (800)700-3874 ext. 5580.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Authorization</th>
<th>Billing Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Comprehensive Asthma Education Program** | Individualized program will include the following services:  
- Individual assessment visit  
- Individual follow-up visits  
- Group classes  
- Periodic individual or group "refresher" training  
Individual assessments will include:  
- Patient and family history  
- Asthma history  
- Medication history  
- Subjective symptom and trigger scoring  
- Severity assessment based on current classification criteria  
Education will include:  
- Asthma action plan  
- Proper use of peak flow meter  
- Proper use of inhaler, and spacer if needed  
- Proper use of medications  
- How to avoid triggers  
- Self-management, including when to contact physician, and when and how to access emergency care | The Alliance will cover up to 6 hours of training during the initial 12 month period, including up to 4 hours of individual training and the remainder group training. A TAR is required for additional individual training, if medically necessary. The Alliance will also cover up to 2 hours of individual or group follow-up in each subsequent year. | Covered ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes J45.20 - J45.52  
Restricted to pre-approved providers.  
Billing Codes  
Individual training*: Code: S9441 individual $45.74 per 30 minute unit  
Group training*: Code: S9441 group $13 per 30 minute unit  
* State in claim form's remarks box whether individual or group visit. (Box #19 on CMS 1500 or box #84 of the UB-04.) Default reimbursement is for group visit. |
| **Medicines and Supplies** | The Alliance covers the following by prescription from the primary care provider or referring physician:  
- Asthma medication as indicated  
- Peak Flow Meter  
- Aerochamber  
- Nebulizer (for children 4 or younger; for age 5 or older, submit TAR with medical necessity)  
- Nebulizer supplies  
- Oxygen  
- CPAP | Peak flow meters and aerochambers may be dispensed by CHEB Provider or a contracted pharmacy. Prescription is required. | Peak Flow Meter**: Code: S8096 Limit 1/yr, Reimbursed at retail plus tax.  
Aerochamber**: Code: 99070 Limit 2/yr, Reimbursed at retail plus tax  
**For peak flow meter or aerochamber/ spacer, attach catalog page or invoice.  
Asthma Kit Code: S8097 Limit 1/yr, $25 Includes peak flow meter, aerochamber, and other supplies. Kit is in lieu of separate peak flow meter and aerochamber billing. |
Tobacco Cessation Support (TCS)

The Alliance is committed to supporting members’ who wish to stop smoking and/or using tobacco products. To accomplish this, the Alliance provides tobacco cessation benefits and services that support prevention and cessation of tobacco use. The TCS program offers many ways to help members quit smoking. Members are referred to the convenient, toll-free California Smokers’ Helpline at 1-800-NO-BUTTS (1-800-662-8887), which provides free cessation counseling over the phone for anyone in California. The Alliance will also cover the cost of counseling sessions for eligible Alliance members. In addition, the Alliance will cover all FDA-approved tobacco cessation medications for adults who smoke and/or use other tobacco products (non-pregnant adults of any age).

- Formulary includes bupropion SR, varenicline, nicotine gum, nicotine lozenge, and the nicotine patch. For varenicline, nicotine gum, nicotine lozenge, and nicotine patches, a 90 day course is covered per year without prior authorization. There is no limit for Bupropion SR.
- Nicotine inhaler and nicotine nasal spray are covered with prior authorization.
- Additional courses for varenicline and nicotine replacement products require prior authorization but there is no mandatory break required between quit attempts.

For more information, call the Health Education Line at (800) 700-3874 ext. 5580. Members may call this number as well for information, community referrals, and easy-to-read health education materials.

Approved Asthma Self-Management Education Programs

The following providers are approved to provide asthma education for Alliance members. Other interested asthma education providers may contact the Alliance Health Education line at (800) 700-3874 ext. 5580 to apply.

**Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties**  
Breathe California Central Coast  
Phone: (831) 422-7306 or (831)809-9741  
*English or Spanish*

**Merced, Turlock and Los Banos**  
Central Valley Allergy & Asthma  
Phone: (209) 383-6868  
Fax: (209) 383-0760  
*English or Spanish with an interpreter*  
Requires PCP Referral

Please confirm that the patient is a current Alliance member prior to providing services by calling the Automated Eligibility Verification Line at (831) 430-5501 (24 hours)

- Eligibility is established monthly, so please confirm eligibility at time of service.
- Please note that professional services, rental, supplies and DME item cannot be billed to Medi-Cal for an amount greater than what is charged to the general public, per Title XXII.
- If education is conducted as a home visit, bill only for education time. Travel time and expenses are not reimbursable.
- For billing questions, please contact the Alliance Claims Department at (831) 430-5503 or your Provider Services Representative at (831) 430-5504.

Providers listed above may utilize the Alliance’s telephone interpreter service to communicate with Alliance members who have Limited English Proficiency. Please request an “Interpreter Services Quick Reference Guide” from your Provider Services Representative at (831) 430-5504 or download from the Alliance Cultural and Linguistic Services page of the Alliance Provider website at www.ccah-alliance.org/cultural_linguistic.html.