

# Asthma Care - Regular Follow-up Visits

## Clinical Rationale

Patients with asthma should have regular follow-up visits. Healthcare professionals need to monitor and review the patient's treatment plan, medication use and level of asthma control. The exact frequency of follow-up visits involves clinical judgment and depends on individual patient characteristics. According to the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) guidelines, typical follow-up is one to three months after the initial visit and then every 3-12 months.<sup>1</sup> Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) guidelines suggest 1-6 month intervals for patients with stable asthma.<sup>2</sup> Based on these guideline recommendations and expert opinion, adherence to this measure was defined as an office visit for asthma care within the last 12 months.

Patients are excluded from this measure if there was no evidence of an office visit within the last 12 months and there was evidence of uncomplicated mild intermittent asthma, including cough variant or exercise-induced bronchospasm, within the last 24 months. Based on the consensus opinion of experts, the frequency of follow-up visits for these patients is not clearly defined and depends on individual patient characteristics.

### References

1. "Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention," Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), last accessed Oct. 5, 2022, <https://ginasthma.org/gina-reports/>.
2. R Sveum et al., "Diagnosis and Management of Asthma," Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, updated July 2012, last accessed Oct. 3, 2016, <https://www.icsi.org>.

## Measure At A Glance



### Applicable specialties

Allergy and Immunology



### Measure steward

Optum<sup>®</sup> Symmetry<sup>®</sup>  
EBM Connect<sup>®</sup>



### Measure description

Patient(s) who had an ambulatory visit for asthma care in last 12 reported months