

June 21, 2013

«PCP_First_Name» «PCP_Last_Name», «title»
«PCP_Address_1»
«PCP_Address_2»
«PCP_City», «PCP_State» «PCP_Zip»

**Re: HEDIS[®] Use of Appropriate Medications for People with Asthma Measure (ASM)
HEDIS[®] Medication Management for People with Asthma (MMA)**

Dear «First_Name» «Last_Name», «Title»:

This letter is a part of our continued efforts to ensure that you are aware of Jai Medical Systems Managed Care Organization, Inc.'s quality assurance standards as they relate to HEDIS[®] (Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set). It is our hope that this information will assist you in achieving our quality assurance goals.

The **Use of Appropriate Medications for People with Asthma (ASM)** measure determines the percentage of members, between 5 and 64 years of age, who were diagnosed with long-term asthma and were appropriately medicated. Using data from this year and last year, the medications that you prescribe to individuals with long-term asthma will be audited using HEDIS[®] standards.

A patient must meet one of the following criteria in calendar year 2012 **and** 2013 to be identified as having long-term or persistent asthma:

- At least one visit to the Emergency Department with asthma as the primary diagnosis.
- Has at least one acute inpatient claim with asthma as the primary diagnosis.
- Has at least four outpatient visits with asthma listed as a diagnosis and has received medication on two occasions.
- Has at least four asthma medications prescribed on different occasions.

To pass this HEDIS[®] measure, individuals with long-term asthma must have filled a prescription for a medication from one of the following four classes in calendar year 2013:

- Inhaled Corticosteroids (e.g. Flovent)
- Cromolyn Sodium and Nedocromil (e.g. Nasalcrom or Tilade)
- Leukotriene Modifiers
- Methylxanthines

The **Medication Management for People with Asthma (MMA)** measure will calculate the percentage of members, between 5 and 64 years of age, who were identified as having persistent asthma and were dispensed appropriate medications that they remained on during the treatment

period. The same criteria explained previously for the ASM measure applies to this measure to determine a patient with persistent asthma. This measure reviews how often the medication is refilled after prescribed as opposed to the ASM measure which reviews only if the medication is filled at least once. Please work with your patients to ensure they are continuing on their asthma therapy as appropriate.

A patient may not clinically have long-term or persistent asthma, but he/she may still fall into these measures according to the HEDIS[®] definition. If this is the case, please use your sound medical judgment when deciding how to medicate this patient.

When treating an individual with asthma, please remember to use the appropriate codes and document all services that you perform. When a patient presents to your office for care, ask the patient how well his or her asthma is being controlled. Please be sure to document any asthma-related emergency room visits and/or hospitalizations. If an individual presents to the emergency room or has an inpatient visit for asthma-related problems, they will be considered to have long-term asthma.

Attached you will find a criteria receipt. After reviewing the standards for these measures please sign and fax this receipt to Stephanie Scharpf at (410) 433-4615.

We believe that the information provided will help you understand how HEDIS[®] will be used to interpret the quality of care provided to our members. Please remember that this information has been adapted from HEDIS[®] guidelines and should not be substituted for your sound medical judgment. Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure that our members receive the highest quality of care possible. Please feel free to contact us at (410) 433-2200 if you have any questions or concerns

Sincerely,



Frances Bird, M.D.
Director, Quality Assurance

Sincerely,



Stephanie Scharpf
Director, Regulatory Compliance and
Administration