

Albuterol Refills

The following Pathway was developed, implemented, and refined by the American Lung Association in Minnesota. The pathway is intended to give other clinics a starting point for systems-change.

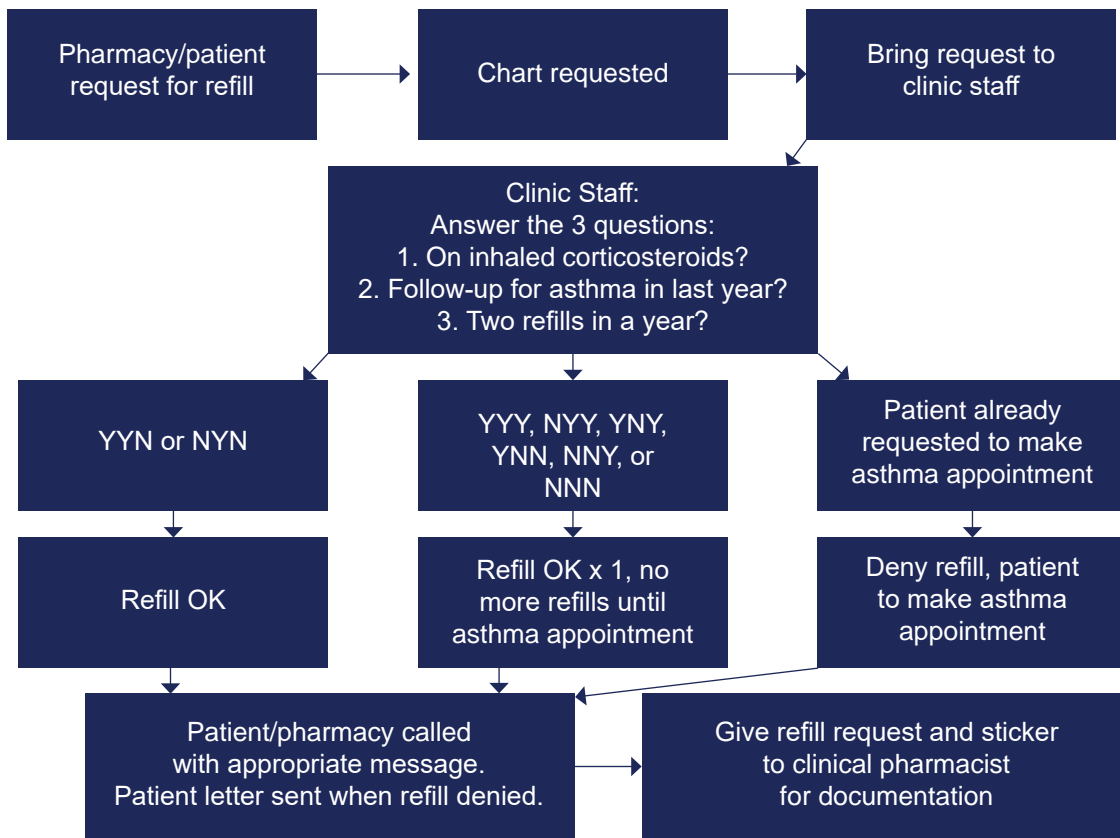
Goal: Identify patients overusing reliever medication and channel to provider visit.

Chronic Care Model: Decision support, delivery system design, clinical information systems

Snapshot

1. Patient or pharmacy requests refill for albuterol.
2. Clinic staff determines eligibility for refill based on three questions:
 - a. On inhaled corticosteroid?
 - b. In for asthma follow-up in last year?
 - c. Already had two refills in last year?
3. Refill is granted or denied based on above eligibility.
4. Letter is mailed to patient explaining denial of refill and requesting patient to make as asthma follow-up appointment.

Flow Diagram



Implementation Details/Considerations

- Patient receives the refill as usual if he/she has had an asthma visit within the last year and has not had two albuterol refills in the last year.
- Patient is denied a refill if he/she has been requested to make an asthma visit appointment and has failed to schedule and/or attend visit.
- In any other situation, the patient is given one refill and is requested to schedule and attend an asthma visit.

Action	On inhaled corticosteroid?	Asthma follow-up in last year?	Two albuterol refills in last year?
Refill as usual	Yes	Yes	No
	No	Yes	No
Refill x 1	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	Yes	Yes
	Yes	No	Yes
	Yes	No	No
	No	No	Yes
	No	No	No