

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 Pharmacy/patient Bring request to Chart requested request for refill clinic staff Clinic Staff: Answer the 3 questions: 1. On inhaled corticosteroids? 2. Follow-up for asthma in last year? 3. Two refills in a year? Patient already YYY, NYY, YNY, YYN or NYN requested to make YNN, NNY, or asthma appointment NNN Deny refill, patient Refill OK x 1, no Refill OK to make asthma more refills until appointment asthma appointment Patient/pharmacy called Give refill request and sticker with appropriate message. to clinical pharmacist Patient letter sent when refill denied. for documentation

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.

	On inhaled	Asthma follow-up	Two albuterol
Action	corticosteroid?	in last year?	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

Pathway developed by Broadway Family Medicine Clinic, Minneapolis, Minneapolis/St. Paul Controlling Asthma in American Cities. Administered by the American Lung Association in Minnesota.