



## Updates to the NAEPP Guidelines and the Asthma Guidelines-Based Care Coverage Project

The National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) has published clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of asthma since 1991. In 2020, the NAEPP released [the 2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines: A Report from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Expert Panel working group](#). Topics included inhaled corticosteroids (ICS), long-acting antimuscarinic agents (LAMAs), immunotherapy, indoor allergen mitigation, fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNo) testing, and bronchial thermoplasty.

These updates have important implications for asthma management. For example, the updates introduce Single Maintenance Reliever Therapy (SMART) as a new treatment option, where ICS-formoterol combination medications can be used for both control and reliever therapy for certain asthma patients.

To keep the American Lung Association's Asthma Guidelines-Based Care Coverage project in line with the most up-to-date evidence-based clinical guidelines, the Lung Association convened a stakeholder group to provide input on updates to the Asthma Guidelines-Based Care Coverage Project: Benchmarks for Key Aspects of Optimal Coverage. The major changes made to the benchmark document are summarized below.

### Medications

The NAEPP updates include a conditional recommendation adding long-acting muscarinic antagonists (LAMAs) to certain patients' asthma treatment. To reflect this recommendation, the Lung Association added LAMAs as a category of controller medications to track.

### Lung Function Testing

Based on the updated guidelines and feedback from stakeholders, the Lung Association has included a new category of coverage components – lung function testing. In this category, the Lung Association will track Medicaid coverage of spirometry and fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO) testing.

### Barriers to Care and Other Clarifications

Several other changes were made throughout the benchmark document to clarify and simplify certain components and barriers based on trends from the first five years of the project.

**Additional resources are available at [www.lung.org/asthma-care-coverage](http://www.lung.org/asthma-care-coverage), including the [updated benchmark document](#).**

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