

PHS

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Pima Health System - Office of Medical Management

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**Pima Health System
Clinical Practice Guideline for
the Diagnosis and Management
of Asthma**

May 2009

Pima Health System Clinical Practice Guideline/Medical Management Committee Membership

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Purpose of this Document

Pima Health System has adopted the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Asthma Education and Prevention Program, **Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma, Full Report - August 2007**, to serve as an evidence-based framework for practitioners' clinical decision making with patients who have Asthma. Extensive literature review on Asthma and Clinical Practice Guidelines developed for Asthma suggests that the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's guideline is among the most comprehensive, evidence-based clinical practice guideline for this condition. The comprehensive guideline focuses on (1) the use of objective measures of lung function to assess the severity of asthma and to monitor the course of therapy, (2) environmental control measures to avoid or eliminate factors that precipitate asthma symptoms or exacerbations, (3) patient education that fosters a partnership among the patient, his or her family, and clinicians (4) comprehensive pharmacologic therapy for long-term management designed to reverse and prevent airway inflammation characteristic of asthma as well as pharmacologic therapy to manage asthma exacerbations.

As with all guidelines, this adopted clinical guideline is designed to assist practitioners by providing an analytical framework for the evaluation and management of members and is not intended to either replace the practitioners' judgment or to establish a protocol for all members with a particular condition. Clinical practice guidelines need to be revised periodically based upon changes identified in both local and national practice patterns and standards. This allows deviation from the guideline in unique clinical situation as long as the reason for variation is clearly documented in the medical record.

Obtaining Copies of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's, Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma.

Copies of the NHLBI Guideline (August 2007) for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma may be obtained through the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at

www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma

Provider Feedback

Pima Health System welcomes feedback on all of our practice guidelines. All suggestions and recommendations are taken into consideration by the health plan's Clinical Practice Guideline/Medical Management Committee in our ongoing review and revision of the guidelines. Comments may be submitted to:

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Guideline Approval

Guideline: Asthma: Diagnosis and Management	PHS CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES
Applicable To: Ambulatory, Long Term Care	
Effective Date: 05/2009 Approved By: <i>Fred Miller, MD, PhD by signature</i>	
Supersedes: new, 7/97, 7/98, 6/01; 5/08	