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## Highlights of the 2001 AHIP Annual Industry Survey:

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### Most Medicaid Managed Care Plans Target Asthma

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**Ninety percent** of Medicaid managed care plans include an asthma disease management program in their benefit packages, according to a survey conducted by the America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) during 2001. Medicaid is the federal-state program that provides medical and health-related services to America's poorest people.

**Seventeen million** Americans—including **5 million** children—suffer from asthma, and disproportionately include those who are low-income, minority, and reside in urban locales.

**Ninety-three percent** of Medicaid plans responding to the survey have a formal process in place to identify patients for disease management. Most of the plans rely on referrals from physicians or self-referral by the patient, pharmacy utilization data, and claims/encounter data to identify their members who would benefit from an asthma disease management program.

**Seventy-four percent** of Medicaid managed care enrollees who are at high risk for asthma participate in such a program.

Medicaid plans follow proven disease management protocols for managing asthma. These can include routine monitoring of the patient's condition, use of prescription medicines and home nebulizers, tobacco cessation treatments, referrals to specialists, and patient education and asthma self-management.

Some Medicaid plans utilize technology as a quick and inexpensive way to reach asthma patients: **42 percent** of Medicaid plans make patient education materials available through the plan's website, and **37 percent** of Medicaid plans use e-mail as a means to communicate with their enrollees regarding asthma education.

**Eighty-two percent** of Medicaid health plans assign case managers to asthma patients at high risk for complications, **66 percent** of plans use them for patients recently discharged from the hospital, and **63 percent** of plans assign case managers to their most costly patients.

According to the survey, this year all Medicaid managed care plans are expected to have disease management programs for asthma and diabetes.

#### References

2001 AHIP Annual Industry Survey by AHIP and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



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