

# Asthma Remediation/Community Supports

## Fact Sheet



As of January 1, 2022, Medi-Cal managed care plans may offer Asthma Remediation services under CalAIM's Community Supports program.

Recognizing that asthma home visiting is an evidence-based intervention that has been proven in study after study to improve asthma outcomes, lower healthcare utilization costs, and reduce disparities, RAMP works with a broad network of asthma and health equity partners to increase access to these services for low-income Californians with poorly controlled asthma.

### What is Asthma Remediation/Community Supports?

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) is a multi-year initiative by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of California's Medi-Cal recipients by implementing broad delivery system, program, and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program.

One major component of CalAIM is Community Supports, which launched in January 2022. Community Supports are a substitute for traditional medical services to avoid utilization of other, costlier services such as emergency department use. Formerly called "In Lieu of Services," Community Supports provides a menu of 14 services that Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) can integrate into their programs.

As a result of our advocacy, DHCS included Asthma Remediation as one of the 14 services that MCPs can opt to provide to qualifying beneficiaries.

### What does Asthma Remediation cover?

Asthma Remediation covers minor to moderate environmental asthma trigger remediation, with a lifetime cap of \$7500 per beneficiary. Asthma Remediation pays for a wide range of supplies and services, along with education about how to reduce or eliminate environmental asthma triggers.

Examples of supplies include: mattress and pillow dust covers, HEPA filtered vacuums, dehumidifiers, or mechanical HEPA air purifiers, also known as air cleaners.

Examples of services include: minor mold removal and remediation services, ventilation improvements, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Other supplies and services may be covered if identified to be medically appropriate and cost effective.

The Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Housing and Urban Development collaborated to produce an [asthma trigger checklist](#), which may be useful in determining which interventions are necessary.

Do you have questions about Asthma Remediation?

RAMP can provide no-cost technical assistance.

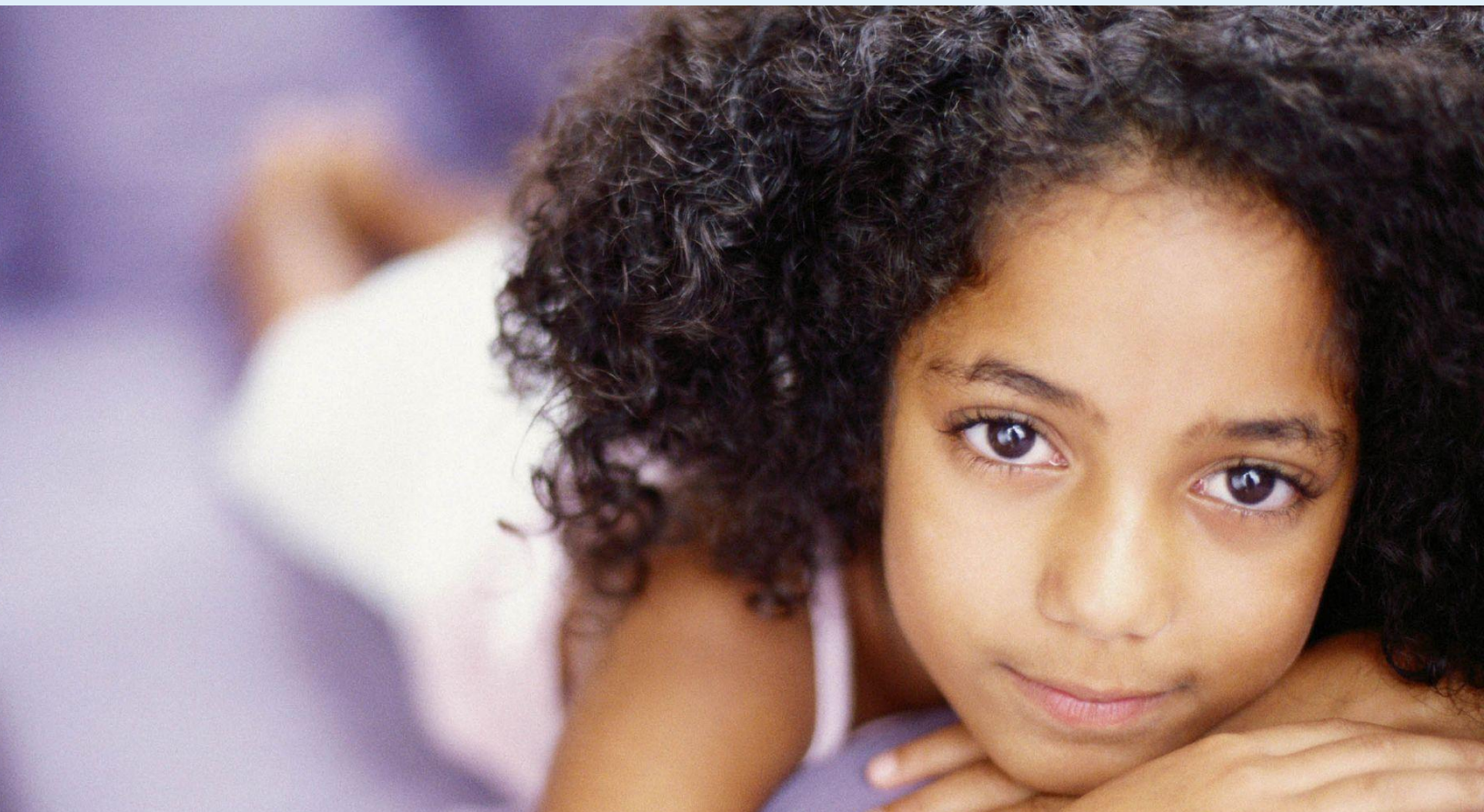
[TA@rampasthma.org](mailto:TA@rampasthma.org)

**Asthma Remediation complements the Asthma Preventive Services benefit. Here's what you need to know.**

As a result of our advocacy, as of July 1, 2022, Asthma Preventive Services (APS) is a covered benefit for eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries. APS includes:

- Asthma self-management education including: the basic facts of asthma, proper use of long-term controllers and quick-relief medications, evidence-based self-management techniques and self-monitoring skills, and actions to mitigate or control environmental exposures that exacerbate asthma symptoms.
- In-home environmental trigger assessments, meaning the identification of environmental asthma triggers commonly found in and around the home, including allergens and irritants. This assessment guides the self-management education about actions to mitigate or control environmental exposures.

To provide a seamless experience for Medi-Cal clients, as well as to maximize program efficiency, ideally APS and AR will be provided by the same entity to ensure efficient and coordinated delivery of care. Combined, these two sources of Medi-Cal funding can support comprehensive asthma home visiting services. Where that's not possible, effective coordination between Asthma Remediation and Asthma Preventive Service providers is needed. See [this fact sheet](#) for more information about the Asthma Preventive Services benefit. RAMP's [quick guide and workflow](#), which include both APS and AR, may also be helpful.



## **Who is eligible to receive Asthma Remediation services?**

AR services are intended for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with poorly controlled asthma, but there are some specific requirements. Medi-Cal beneficiaries can only receive AR services if their MCP has opted to participate in AR.

In April 2025, DHCS updated its Community Supports guidance, clarifying that AR should supplement and not supplant APS. Managed care plans have until January 1, 2026, to implement the new guidance. Once implemented, a Medi-Cal beneficiary who received a home environmental trigger assessment under APS within the past twelve months is automatically eligible for AR services, if offered by the beneficiary's managed care plan. No additional documentation of medical appropriateness is required for MCPs to authorize Asthma Remediation services.

Before January 1, 2026, if a managed care plan has yet to implement the revised AR guidance, in-home environmental trigger assessments and asthma self-management education may be provided through Asthma Remediation if Medi-Cal beneficiaries meet the following criteria:

- Have poorly controlled asthma (defined as an emergency department visit or hospitalization or two sick or urgent care visits due to asthma in the past 12 months, or a score of 19 or lower on the Asthma Control Test), or
- Have a recommendation from a licensed healthcare provider (e.g., physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) that the service will likely avoid asthma-related hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and/or other high-cost services.

During this interim period before a managed care plan implements the revised AR guidance, if poorly controlled asthma is documented in the Medi-Cal beneficiary's medical record, additional medical provider authorization is not required.

## **What are the billing codes and rates?**

Per DHCS's Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports Coding Options, MCPs must use HCPCS code S5165 with Modifier U5 for reporting to DHCS. There are no mandatory billing rates for Asthma Remediation services. The MCP and contracted organization will agree upon a payment amount as part of the contracting process. Funding is intended to cover the supplies and services, along with the staff time required to provide the supplies and services (including coordinating service delivery, as needed). DHCS's non-binding pricing guidance suggests a service rate of \$7500 per beneficiary. Additional expenditures may be authorized if the client's condition has changed substantially and/or additional modifications are necessary to avoid higher levels of care such as hospitalizations.

As noted above, in April 2025, DHCS updated its Community Supports guidance. Managed care plans have until January 1, 2026, to implement the new guidance. Until plans do so, asthma-related education may be provided and paid for under Asthma Remediation.

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Medi-Cal managed care plans have already selected Asthma Remediation

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Counties in California have access to or will soon have access to Asthma Remediation as of June 202



### What about services that include physical adaptations to the residence?

Asthma Remediation that is a physical adaptation to a residence must be performed by an individual holding a California Contractor's License. The Department of Consumer Affairs, Contractors State License Board licenses contractors in 43 classifications, ranging from General Building Contractors to more specialized designations such as Flooring Contractors. Please see the [CSLB License Check website](#) for more information. Before commencement of a permanent physical adaptation to the home or installation of equipment in the home, such as installation of an exhaust fan or replacement of moldy drywall, the MCP must provide the owner and member with written documentation that the modifications are permanent, and that the State is not responsible for maintenance or repair of any modification nor for removal of any modification if the member ceases to reside at the residence. This requirement does not apply to the provision of supplies that are not permanent adaptations or installations, including but not limited to: allergen-impermeable mattress and pillow dust covers; high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtered vacuums; dehumidifiers; portable air cleaner; and asthma-friendly cleaning products and supplies.



### Is Technical Assistance available for organizations interested in Asthma Remediation?

Yes. Combining over two decades of experience, strong relationships with diverse stakeholders, and deep knowledge of asthma best practices and the Medi-Cal landscape, RAMP is the leading asthma technical assistance provider in California. RAMP provides TA on program design, data collection, workforce development, cultural humility, partnership development, and best practices for environmental asthma trigger remediation. We provide direct, flexible, responsive TA to existing asthma home visiting programs as well as organizations just beginning work on Asthma Remediation. TA is available directly from RAMP; additionally, DHCS has created a TA Marketplace to provide free TA to organizations across California, and RAMP is a TA provider as part of this Marketplace. We can also support MCPs with their efforts to implement Asthma Remediation. You can learn more about our TA [here](#).

We encourage you to reach out to us directly with questions or to learn more about TA at [TA@rampasthma.org](mailto:TA@rampasthma.org). Additional resources are also available on [our website](#).



## References and resources

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The DHCS Medi-Cal Community Supports, or In Lieu of Services (ILOS), Policy Guide, April 2025  
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/MCQMD/DHCS-Community-Supports-Policy-Guide.pdf>

The DHCS Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports Coding Options, Updated June 2024  
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/MCQMD/Coding-Options-for-ECM-and-Community-Supports.pdf>

DHCS's Non-Binding ILOS Pricing Guidance  
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/MCQMD/ILOS-Pricing-Guidance-Updated-8-5-2021.pdf>

RAMP's Asthma Preventive Services Fact Sheet  
<https://rampasthma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/APS-Fact-Sheet-Final.pdf>

For additional RAMP tools and resources about AR, visit [our website](#).

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