

# Identification of Payer Knowledge Gaps and Collaborative Opportunities for Improved Outcomes in Moderate-to-Severe Asthma

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## BACKGROUND

Moderate-to-severe asthma presents significant clinical and economic challenges, often due to complex treatment regimens. Effective management requires collaboration between managed care professionals and clinicians, yet differing priorities and knowledge gaps can hinder progress. This program explores challenges and opportunities for improving treatment access through stakeholder collaboration.

## OBJECTIVE

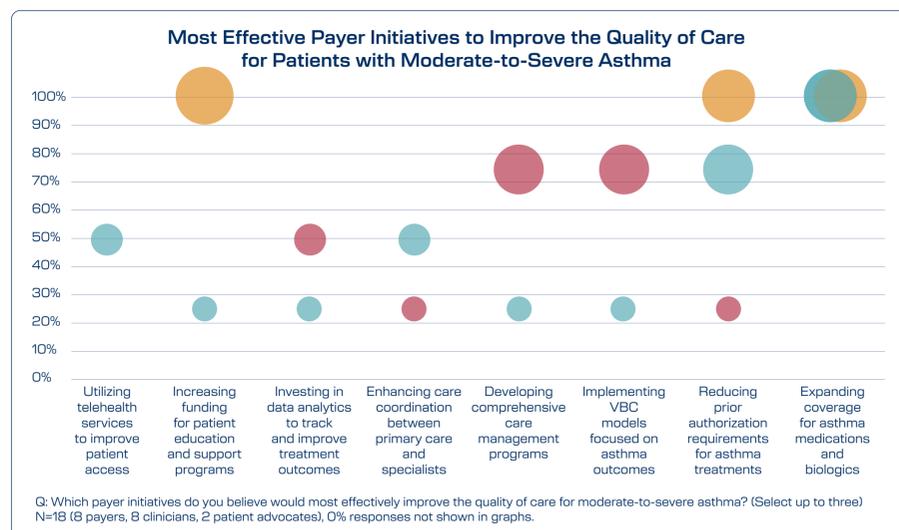
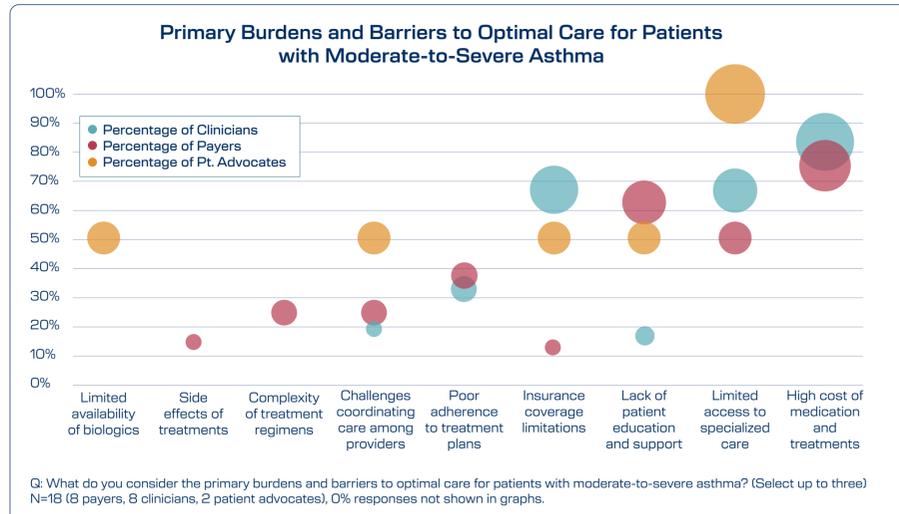
To describe challenges and opportunities to improve access to appropriate and timely treatment of moderate-to-severe asthma through managed care and clinician collaborations.

## METHODS

A series of virtual roundtables was conducted with managed care professionals, clinicians, and patient advocates recruited from a proprietary database in June 2024. Participants provided quantitative data via polling and discussed opportunities to improve care for patients with moderate-to-severe asthma. Polling responses and roundtable transcripts were analyzed to identify priorities, knowledge gaps, and collaborative opportunities.

## CONCLUSIONS

Several opportunities exist to address knowledge gaps and barriers that prevent patients with moderate-to-severe asthma from receiving effective treatment. There is a high level of agreement that the high cost of treatments is the primary burden for patients and mixed perspectives on other patient burdens, with the largest variance between experts around insurance coverage limitations and access to specialized care. There is no agreement among stakeholders around what payers could do to more effectively improve quality of care aside from agreement between clinicians and patient advocates around the payer opportunity to expand coverage for asthma medications. Addressing the identified gaps in payer knowledge and exploring collaborative efforts may help support improvement in the quality of care for patients with moderate-to-severe asthma.



## RESULTS

Insights from 18 participants were evaluated following the roundtables. The managed care professionals (n=8) represented health plans, PBMs, IDNs, and employer groups. The clinicians (n=8) had over 162 years of combined experience in their respective specialties, and the patient representatives (n=2) had more than 40 years of experience in the asthma community. Clinicians identified the high cost of medications as the most significant challenge in managing patients with moderate-to-severe asthma. Managed care professionals had mixed perspectives, while the patient representatives unanimously ranked access to specialty care as the most significant challenge. There was low agreement among the 3 groups around what payers could do to improve the quality of care for moderate-to-severe asthma. The participants also had differing perspectives on the effectiveness of expanding coverage for asthma treatments. Additionally, 7 payer knowledge gaps were identified, such as understanding the benefits of biologics for disease control and reducing the need for corticosteroids, and 4 collaborative opportunities between clinicians and managed care professionals were recommended.

### SEVEN PAYER KNOWLEDGE GAPS

- 1 Limited understanding of the **long-term efficacy and safety of biologics** used for managing moderate-to-severe asthma.
- 2 No consensus on how to **define and assess the response to biologic treatments** in severe asthma.
- 3 Limited understanding on **using biomarkers** to guide biologic therapy selection and monitoring.
- 4 Need for **real-world evidence to understand the practical application of clinical guidelines** in asthma management.
- 5 Lack of insight on the long-term **cost-effectiveness of biologics**.
- 6 Limited **access to specialized care and inconsistent knowledge** across different regions, affecting the initiation and management of proper therapy.
- 7 Insufficient awareness of **type 2 inflammation's role in asthma disease**, particularly in moderate-to-severe cases.

### FOUR COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 **Reducing Barriers to Access:** Identify and eliminate barriers that prevent patients from accessing necessary treatments, including high costs, insurance coverage limitations, and complex treatment regimens.
- 2 **Developing Evidence-Based Policies:** Create and implement policies and utilization management criteria that reflect the latest clinical evidence and real-world data.
- 3 **Enhancing Education and Support:** Improve patient education and management, particularly focusing on the importance of treatment adherence and the availability of support programs to help patients manage their condition effectively. There remains a challenge in effectively translating and representing type 2 inflammation information in PA requests.
- 4 **Aligning on Care Improvement Efforts:** Improve management of steroid-related complications such as osteoporosis, diabetes, hypertension, and infections, which require additional treatments and healthcare resources.

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