



September 8, 2003

Dear Dr. K-----

Asthma continues to be the leading chronic disease for the San Francisco Health Plan (SFHP) members as well as a growing health problem. One of the goals for this year is to increase the number of SFHP members with asthma who are on the optimal treatment regimen. We are enlisting your help, your clinical expertise, and your good will to help us reach this goal.

Below is a table that shows the number of your patients with persistent asthma who are on long-term controller medications (e.g. inhaled steroids) for their asthma and the average for your medical group.

	<i>Pts on Controllers</i>	<i>Not on Controllers</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Dr K-----	7	8	47%
Chinese Comm. Health Care Assoc.	34	31	52%

Enclosed you will find individual profiles of your SFHP patients with persistent asthma, and associated pharmacy and hospital utilization. The profile lists all asthma-related visits and asthma-related medications. We have selected these patients based on the guidelines that suggest that any member with hospital or ER visits, or 4 or more outpatient visits is a candidate for long-term controllers.

To assist you in starting more patients on the controller medications, we request that you do the following three steps:

- 1. Review profiles and direct your staff to call in patients for an appointment**
- 2. Place attached profile in chart**
- 3. After writing Rx for patient, send in bottom of profile reply section to SFHP**

If any of these patients is not appropriate for the suggested medication, please send in the reply section with your comments.

If you feel any of this information is in error, would like information about additional asthma resources, or would like to discuss case management options for your asthma patients, please call me directly at 415-547-7818 ext. 207.

Thank you for your collaboration,

Michael van Duren, MD, MBA
Medical Director, San Francisco Health Plan



Clinical Alert: Please file in patient's chart and remove after requested action has been taken

ASTHMA CARE REMINDER

Z-----, T-----

M DOB 03/07/1998 Lang: Chinese

PCP: K-----

2566 28TH AVE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116

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Asthma Visits During 2002

05/03/2002	Outpatient	K-----
05/01/2002	Outpatient	K-----
01/24/2002	Outpatient	K-----
01/22/2002	Outpatient	K-----

Prescriptions For Asthma Filled in 200.

02/21/2003	albuterol 2 mg/5 ml oral syrup
12/16/2002	albuterol 2 mg/5 ml oral syrup
10/04/2002	albuterol 2 mg/5 ml oral syrup

Based on the information above and national asthma guidelines, this patient appears to be a candidate for long-term controller medications.

To any provider who sees this patient next:

1. Please review whether the patient might benefit from a long-term prevention strategy for asthma control.
2. If appropriate, write a prescription for inhaled steroids (e.g. Flovent, Pulmicort, or Qvar) or other controller meds.
3. Fax back this page with your reply to SFHP

Reply Section - FAX To 415-547-7824 Attn: Rowena Tarantino

- I started this patient on controller medication.
Date/Prescription: _____
- This patient should not be on a controller because: _____
- I have not seen this patient since: _____
- This patient is not on my roster
- Please call me at: _____
- I would like help with: _____
- Other: _____