



INHALE

CLINICAL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Highlights

2025 VBR Updates

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Updates & Reminders

Updates to 2025 VBR

The 2025 INHALE PCP and SCP VBR scorecard which was worth a total of 105% will now be split into **103%** and **102%** (reimbursement period for 2025 SCP VBR is 03/01/25 – 02/28/26; 2025 PCP VBR is 09/1/25 – 08/31/26)

- PARTICIPATION will be worth **103%** of the VBR and the measurement period will end **8/31/24** (as originally planned).
- PERFORMANCE will be worth **102%**, aggregated at the PO level and will extend to **10/31/24** (2 months longer than originally planned).
- The performance target remains at increasing 5 percentage points from your baseline score for Inhaler Education. This means if your baseline was 1%, the target is 6%; this has not changed from the original release of the scorecard.
- NOTE: the Tobacco Cessation VBR (102%) measure details and measurement period will remain the same, with the measurement period ending **08/31/24**.

The new measurement year (participation and performance) for 2026 VBR will still begin **9/1/24** and go through **8/31/25**.

Admin Portal Update

Starting in late September, the INHALE admin portal will be separate from MCT2D. Your log in credentials will remain the same, however the link to the portal will be changed. The CC will send out a notification when this change occurs.

SCP Scorecard

[READ MORE](#)



PCP Scorecard

[READ MORE](#)



COPD Research Study Opportunity

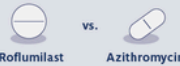
The **RELIANCE** study, is a **PCORI-funded**, national clinical trial called comparing roflumilast to azithromycin head-to-head for treatment escalation in people with COPD. The results of the RELIANCE study are expected to inform hospital efforts to reduce re-admissions and premature deaths in individuals with COPD, and programs to reduce antibiotic overuse.

This study offers a unique, compensated opportunity for pulmonologists to get involved in research (without research infrastructure like a study coordinator) by simply referring their eligible patients to the study using a brief online form. The RELIANCE team consents and follows up with participants remotely.



Roflumilast or Azithromycin to prevent COPD Exacerbations
NCT04069312
PCORI Contract # PCS-1504-30430

Which drug is better for my patient?



How can I live a better life?

Is there anything else we can try?

YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN RESEARCH!

Become a RELIANCE COPD study
Community Research Partner.

What is the RELIANCE COPD study?

RELIANCE is a multi-site, nationwide clinical research project funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to compare the real-world effectiveness of long-term oral roflumilast vs. azithromycin to prevent COPD readmissions and mortality after hospital discharge.

What's in it for clinicians?

- ▶ \$500 up front to help get set up and each year the study is recruiting (currently scheduled through 2025).
- ▶ \$2000 for each participant enrolled— if 1-2 patients per month join, this can really add up!
- ▶ RELIANCE supports with the IRB!
- ▶ Collaborate + attend webinars with leaders in COPD treatment, readmission prevention, & pulmonary care.



For more information
Visit reliance-study.org or
email the RELIANCE study
team:

- Jerry Krishnan, MD,
PhD
 - jakris@uic.edu
- Nina Bracken, APN,
ACNP-BC
 - ngrude@uic.edu

SCAN



3 steps for clinicians to refer their patients to RELIANCE:

STEP 1

Identify potentially eligible patients during routine care (in-person or telehealth).

- ✓ Hospitalized for COPD exacerbation or respiratory complications of COVID-19 in the last 12 months;
- ✓ Have severe COPD with associated chronic bronchitis;
- ✓ Currently take a LAMA, ICS/LABA, or LAMA/LABA;
- ✓ May need treatment escalation with either roflumilast or azithromycin (and you have no preference).

STEP 2

Introduce the RELIANCE study

RELIANCE provides materials to help introduce the study.

If patient expresses interest, confirm eligibility and hand them an envelope of RELIANCE materials to support enrollment by the RELIANCE call center.

STEP 3

Submit a 3-minute online referral form. RELIANCE takes it from there!

The RELIANCE call center confirms interest and eligibility.

A central study MD writes the first Rx and sends to your patient's pharmacy.



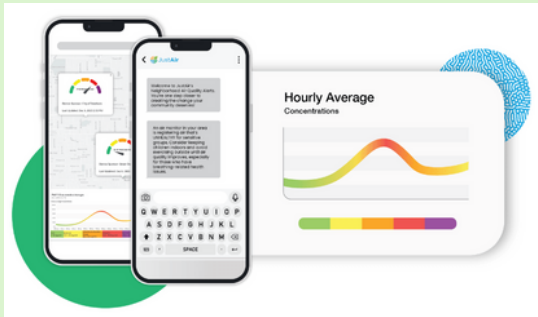
Health Equity Corner

Air Quality Index Monitoring Tools

Air Quality Index (AQI) can affect patients with lung conditions with asthma flares, increased coughing, and shortness of breath. AQI can also be raised during the summer wild fire season. Tracking this information can give patients insight into their breathing difficulties and when they may want to take extra caution to prevent flares.

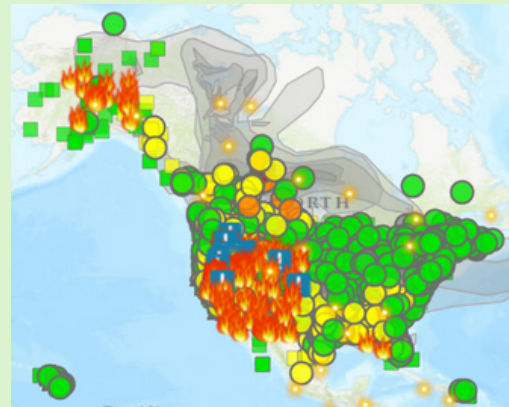
JustAir

Residents of Wayne County Michigan can sign up for text alerts that provide hyper-local community air quality monitoring networks.



AirNow

AirNow provides AQI monitoring from the Environmental Protection Agency and a wildfire/smoke map.



Medication Updates



Symbicort

As of 8/1/24, Symbicort (brand) will be moved to the generic tier for patients with BCBSM commercial pharmacy benefits. Generic Symbicort (Breyna) will no longer be covered. According to BCBSM, a new prescription is not required and the change over for existing refills will occur at the pharmacy.

Inhaler Cost Reductions

Some major asthma inhaler manufacturers have announced \$35 a month caps on out-of-pocket costs. The price cap will apply to people with commercial/private insurance or no insurance.

[Read more here](#)

Little Lungs Asthma Training

This training focuses on asthma in the pediatric population. It contains:

- 6 modules
- Each module has about a 10 minute long video
- After watching the video there are 5 questions about what you learned
- Additional resources are available to review



Asthma Partnership Forum

A virtual event taking place on August 21st 11am to 1pm.

- Agenda:
 - Lung Health and Outdoor Air Quality
 - Asthma Health through Air Quality Data: Mobilizing Citizen Scientists for Local Change

For more information contact:

John Dowling
dowlingj@michigan.gov



COPD Educator Course

This 3 partial-day course is for healthcare professionals who work with COPD patients, such as respiratory therapists, internal medicine nurses, pulmonary nurses, pharmacists and care managers. The course includes thorough and practical information healthcare professionals can use in their work with COPD patients while earning continuing education credits.



COPD Basics Course

This program is offered as a self-paced online learning module to help people learn more about COPD. The program is ideal for people who have recently been diagnosed with COPD, their families and healthcare professionals such as nurses, physicians, and respiratory therapists.

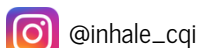


SAVE THE DATE

Fall Regional Meetings - 5:30p Registration - 6:00p-8:00p Meeting

- September 24th, October 1st, 3rd, 15th, and 16th
 - October 16th - Pediatric focused meeting. All are invited to attend in lieu of their assigned date/location.
- In person attendance for Practice Clinical Champions required

Registration is now open in the Admin Portal



inhale-support@med.umich.edu



INHALE
Inspiring Health Advances in Lung Care