

**Table 3F. Asthma Treatment: Adherence**

Referral Guideline	Rationale	Evidence Type
<p>Patients with asthma in whom adherence problems may be limiting optimal control</p>	<p>Patients with a visit to an allergist/immunologist in the prior year were significantly more likely to have been dispensed an optimally effective number of inhaled steroid canisters.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Specialty care is associated with more refills of anti-inflammatory medications.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Patient compliance with national asthma guidelines was higher in patients of specialists.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Misunderstanding of asthma controller medications, which was associated with decreased adherence, was more likely in patients not treated by specialists.<sup>4</sup></p>	<p>Direct outcome evidence</p>

**References:**

1. Schatz M, Cook EF, Nakahiro R, Petitti D. Inhaled corticosteroids and allergy specialty care reduce emergency hospital use for asthma. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2003; 111(3):503-508. Evidence grade: III
2. Stempel DA, Carlson AM, Buchner DA. Asthma: benchmarking for quality improvement. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol* 1997; 79(6):517-24. Evidence grade: III
3. Meng YY, Leung KM, Berkbigler D, Halbert RJ, Legorreta AP. *J Eval Clin Pract* 1999; 5:213-21. Evidence grade: IV
4. Farber HJ, Capra AM, Finkelstein JA, et al. *J Asthma* 2003; 40(1):17-25. Evidence grade: III