

**AHRQ STATE HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP:**

**ASTHMA RETURN-ON-INVESTMENT CALCULATOR**

<p><b>WHAT DOES THIS TOOL DO?</b></p>	<p>The Asthma Return-On-Investment (ROI) Calculator helps State leaders estimate the financial benefits of asthma quality improvement programs in their State. This calculator takes information from the literature and combines it with real-world data about patients to estimate the net impact of an asthma care quality improvement program. It includes information on medical utilization, cost of the disease, and asthma prevalence—with particular focus on programs that highlight patient and provider education on how to better manage the disease.</p>
<p><b>WHO SHOULD USE THIS TOOL?</b></p>	<p>This tool should be used by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State health department officials and executive branch officials including State health departments, Medicaid officials, benefit managers for state employees, etc.</li> <li>● State elected leaders – governors and legislators</li> <li>● Nongovernmental State and local health care leaders (professional societies, provider associations, hospital associations, quality improvement organizations, voluntary health organizations, health plans, business coalitions, community organizations, and consumer groups)</li> </ul>
<p><b>HOW DOES THIS TOOL WORK?</b></p>	<p>The tool uses an Excel spreadsheet model, guiding users through six main steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Users select the <u>population</u> for which the intervention is being designed.</li> <li>2. The calculator helps estimate the number and demographic characteristics of <u>participants</u> in the asthma program.</li> <li>3. The calculator estimates the <u>baseline</u> utilization of medical services and missed work days for participating patients at baseline (i.e., without the asthma program).</li> <li>4. Using impact estimates from the review and analysis of the literature, the calculator estimates the asthma <u>program impact</u> in terms of reduction or increase in hospital visits, ED visits, etc.</li> <li>5. The calculator provides <u>program cost</u> estimates from the literature or allows the user to enter estimates from program vendors.</li> <li>6. Results of savings, costs, and overall return on investment (ROI) are estimated by comparing the savings of the program (in terms of saved medical costs and/or fewer missed work days) with the cost of implementing the program.</li> </ol>
<p><b>WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THIS TOOL?</b></p>	<p>The Asthma ROI Calculator includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A synthesis of 52 research studies on improving asthma care, and implications for cost-savings</li> <li>● Knowledge of how asthma-related costs are likely to change for:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ emergency department visits</li> <li>○ hospital stays</li> <li>○ outpatient visits</li> <li>○ medications</li> <li>○ ancillary testing</li> <li>○ missed school or work days</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Options to describe benefits and costs from a third-party payer or societal perspective</li> <li>● Ability to test strategies in designing an asthma care improvement program for:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ children, adults, or both</li> <li>○ all asthma patients, or only those with persistent asthma</li> <li>○ Medicaid, employer-sponsored insurance, or state employees</li> <li>○ savings of direct medical costs, and/or productivity gains</li> <li>○ length of the program</li> <li>○ vendor cost of the program</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Default population and asthma prevalence data for the 50 States and D.C.</li> <li>● Flexibility to enter baseline data for specific populations (a state program, national program, or private health insurance plan)</li> <li>● Ability to choose the rigor of the research design to use in estimating savings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HOW CAN I OBTAIN THE TOOL?</b></p>	<p>This tool will soon be available on AHRQ's website.</p> <p>For further information, please send all inquiries to <a href="mailto:quality_tools@ahrq.hhs.gov">quality_tools@ahrq.hhs.gov</a>.</p>