

City Health Information

May 2019

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Subject: NYC Health Department Home Inspection Services for Patients With Persistent Asthma

Dear Colleague:

For your patients with persistent asthma, reducing exposure to indoor triggers such as rodents, cockroaches, and mold can improve asthma control and reduce hospitalizations and school absences.¹ These triggers are often present in housing that is not well maintained. **The New York City (NYC) Health Department's Healthy Homes Program (HHP) offers free home inspections and works with landlords to correct maintenance issues, such as leaks, cracks, and holes.**

You can refer patients of any age who reside in NYC to the HHP if they

- have moderate persistent OR severe persistent asthma

AND

- have seen mice, rats, cockroaches, or signs of these pests (eg, shed skins, droppings, or chewed food packages) in the past month **OR** currently have visible mold in their home.

Ask eligible patients or their parents/guardians if they are interested in receiving [the services](#) provided by HHP, including a home visit and coordination with their landlord. Once patients are referred to HHP, program staff will schedule this visit to assess for asthma triggers and building maintenance issues that result in pests and mold. If building issues are identified, staff will work with your patient's landlord or building superintendent to fix the problem and will conduct a follow-up inspection to determine if the repair work has been safely completed. If the owner does not try to fix the problem, or the work is being done unsafely, the Health Department may take enforcement action against the building owner.

You can make a referral electronically via the [Citywide Immunization Registry](#) (preferred) or by faxing a completed [referral form](#) to 347-396-8935. To make an electronic referral:

- Sign in to the [Citywide Immunization Registry](#) and select your patient's record.
- Click the "Pre-completed Forms and Referrals" tab near the top of the page.
- Click the link for "Healthy Homes Program – Individuals with Asthma Living with Pests and/or Mold Referral Form" at the bottom right of the page.
- The form will be prepopulated with your patient's information. Confirm that the phone number displayed is the patient's current working number and the address listed is current. Update it if needed.
- Complete the remaining fields and click "Continue."
- Review the form and click "Confirm."

Contact NYCHNP@health.nyc.gov for more information or to schedule a presentation at your facility.

Sincerely,



Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner

REFERENCES

1. Crocker DD, Kinyota S, Dumitru GG, et al. Effectiveness of home-based, multi-trigger, multicomponent interventions with an environmental focus for reducing asthma morbidity: a community guide systematic review. *Am J Prev Med.* 2011;41(2 Suppl 1):S5-S32.