

TIPS FOR MEDICAL PROVIDERS: PROTECTING NYCHA TENANTS WITH ASTHMA FROM THE EFFECTS OF MOLD

A wide range of city, state, and federal laws protect people with disabilities—including those diagnosed with asthma—from discrimination. These laws require the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to remove mold from the homes of tenants who have asthma.

As a medical provider to a NYCHA tenant with asthma, you play a critical role in ensuring that your patient receives the benefits that these anti-discrimination laws provide. By writing a letter that explains your patient's asthma diagnosis and medical needs, you can help safeguard your patient's right to clean, safe housing. The following tips will help you write such a letter:

1. Provide context for your treatment of the patient.

- How long have you treated the patient?
- How often do you see the patient?

2. Explain your patient's asthma diagnosis and symptoms.

- Use simple language and avoid medical jargon—the person reading your letter may not be a medical professional
- Explain your patient's asthma symptoms in detail
- Provide specific examples of how asthma symptoms impact your patient's life (e.g. difficulty walking or climbing stairs)

3. Explain the impact of mold on your patient's asthma.

- Describe how mold has exacerbated your patient's asthma symptoms
- Explain how mold might impact your client's asthma in the future
- If you think mold is dangerous to your patient based on her diagnosis, say so!

4. Explain your patient's need for a mold-free living environment

- If you believe that it is medically necessary for your client to live in a mold-free environment, say so!

This fact sheet provides general information only. It does not constitute legal advice.