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TOP

**Dear Pharmacists,**

**your help is**

**kindly requested**

**The problem**

**Asthma remains a common problem which affects 10% of children. The Recent national review of Asthma Deaths has again shown that many children are at risk of life threatening asthma as they are not receiving the appropriate care. It requires a joined up approach with all health care professionals taking up the challenge.**

**How can you help**

1. **Check Inhaler technique when dispensing new inhalers**

* **There is no point stepping up medication if it is not being delivered affectively.**
* **All children regardless of there age should be using an MDI with a spacer. For Teenagers in secondary school it may be appropriate for them to have a breath activated device for there reliever in addition to their MDI and spacer**

1. **Ask About Asthma Control**

* **Ratio of Reliever to Preventer medication**
* **Number or Repeat Reliever prescriptions >6 / year should prompt an asthma review by a GP**
* **Parent scan fill out a patient assessment form; Asthma Control Test (ACT) score, available on Asthma UK website**

1. **Ask if the child has an Asthma Plan**

* **All children should have an asthma plan completed by their doctor. If parents do not have one they should book an Asthma review with their GP. Asthma plans are available on the Asthma UK website.**

1. **Ask about Smoking**

* **Children are more likely to have more respiratory problems and worst asthma control if parents smoke (even if that is outside). Offer “Quit smoking - very brief advice” to parents.**
* **15% of teeanagers will smoke. Do not forget to ask them and offer the same help.**
* [**http://www.smokefreeislington.nhs.uk/resource/paediatrics-stop-smoking-referral/**](http://www.smokefreeislington.nhs.uk/resource/paediatrics-stop-smoking-referral/)

1. **Ask about Flu vaccine**

* **All children with asthma should receive the flue vaccine each year.**