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# Bexley Asthma Management and Community Pharmacy Project

This project is led and supported by Healthy London Partnership Children and Young People’s work stream in partnership with the Bexley Commissioner for Children & Young People’s Services. The project is also being supported by the Local Pharmaceutical Committee.

The project aims to improve CYP control and management of asthma through the use of opportunistic inhaler reviews conducted by pharmacists with patients visiting the pharmacy. It will:

* Utilise community pharmacists to identify patients aged between 5-25 years with poorly controlled asthma that would benefit from an asthma review by their GP;
* Gather general information on the patient’s asthma management and communicate this to the GP using a platform developed by Sonar Informatics. If any issues are detected by the pharmacist, a referral is sent to the GP to follow up; and
* Emphasise the role pharmacists can provide in promoting good inhaler technique and supporting inhaler surveillance in primary care.

The project aligns with recommendations from the National Review of Asthma Deaths (NRAD) report and BTS/SIGN to utilise pharmacists in asthma management.

A pre-launch session was carried out on 15 May 2017 with local pharmacies and GP Practices to explain the context of the project and discuss and agree the proposed pathway. Subsequent training sessions were held with GPs from three surgeries – Lakeside Medical centre (bordering Greenwich), Slade Green Medical Centre (North Bexley) and the Albion Practice (North Bexley) – and pharmacists from 15 local practices.

The project was launched in September 2017.

### Benefits

* Cost neutral to Bexley CCG and Bexley LA - the project uses both new and established pharmacy services commissioned by NHS England (advanced services & quality payments);
* No double payments – pharmacy will not replicate activity in the GP practice (this is not an asthma review). Instead they will case find, encourage patients to attend a review and gather information to help “fill in the gaps” for the asthma review in the GP Practice; and
* Supports GP Forward View – collaborative working between GPs and pharmacists, with the goal of integrating pharmacies into the system of care for asthma management.

### Results

The project will be formally evaluated in March 2018. It is hoped that it will:

* Increase the number of patients attending asthma reviews with their GP practice;
* Reduce A&E presentations for asthma exacerbation;
* Encourage better control of asthma in 5-25 year olds;
* Increase inhaler surveillance in pharmacies;
* Result in increased knowledge and understanding of asthma management in pharmacies and GP practices;
* Increase patient satisfaction in the management of their asthma;
* Mean that GP practices receive additional and more accurate information, in particular on emergency scenarios within the pharmacy e.g. requests and prescriptions for inhalers out of hours.