

#AskAboutAsthma webinar: refresh and update of CYP asthma for primary care

Chaired by:

Dr Niamh McLaughlin
General Practitioner, Special Interest in Paediatrics and Women's Health,
Millbank Medical Centre

Housekeeping



Attendees are automatically muted with camera switched off during the webinar.



Use the group chat feature to ask questions and please like any questions that you would like answered.



This session is being recorded. A link will be available after the webinar with the slides.

Agenda

#AskAboutAsthma webinar: refresh and update of CYP asthma for primary care

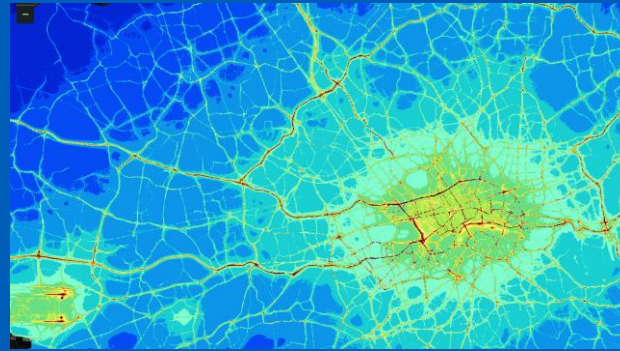
Tuesday 12 September 2023 1:00 – 2:00pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Topic	Speaker
Chair: Niamh McLaughlin General Practitioner, Special Interest in Paediatrics and Women's Health Millbank Medical Centre	
Childhood asthma: #AAA update for primary care	Stephen Goldring Consultant Paediatrician, Hillingdon Hospital and North West London CYP Asthma Network lead
A collaborative approach: How Whipps Cross are using their 48-hour review pilot to support CORE20PLUS5	Amutha Anpananthar Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Whipps Cross Hospital Tonia Myers GP Clinical Lead for Children and Young People, Waltham Forest
Q & A	All

Childhood asthma

#AAA update for primary care



Stephen Goldring
Consultant Paediatrician, Hillingdon Hospital
North West London CYP Asthma Network lead
No disclosures

Tier 3 asthma training



Key messages

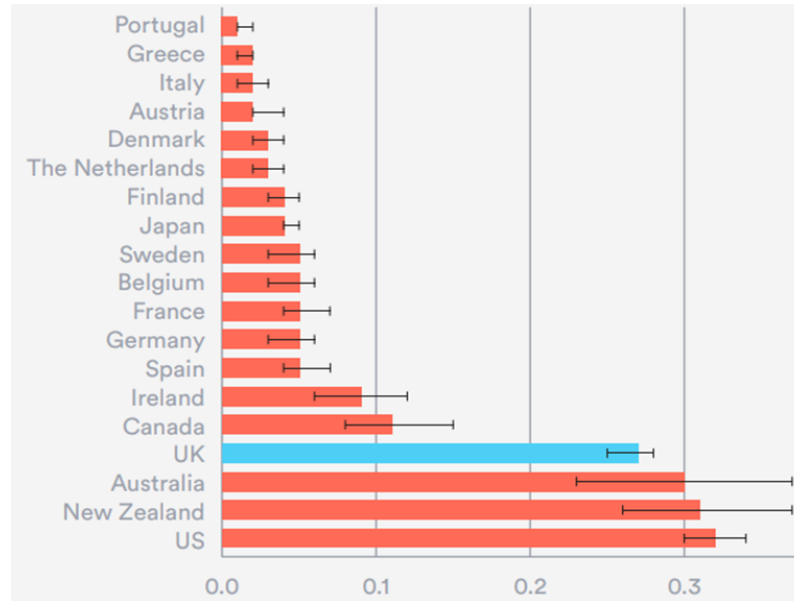
Childhood asthma is common and children still die

Asthma attacks are sentinel events that something is wrong, and something needs to change, and if that change doesn't lead to improvement, then refer

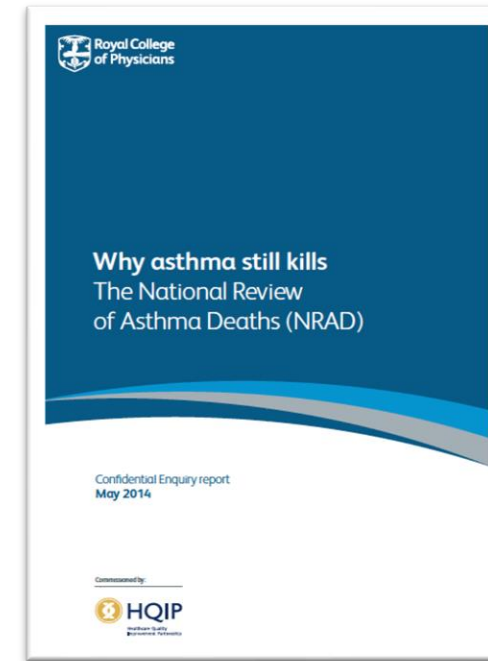
Concept of 'anti-inflammatory reliever'

Update on post-attack 'weaning plans'

The UK has one of the highest prevalence, emergency admission and death rates for childhood asthma²



Asthma mortality rate age 10-14 per 100,000
Global Burden of Disease study, 2016 (accessed January 2019).
95% confidence intervals
<https://www.asthma.org.uk/about/media/facts-and-statistics>
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/09/nhs-warning-to-parents-as-asthma-season-hits>



UK Feb 2012 – Jan 2013
Review of 195 deaths - 28
childrenwww.rcplondon.ac.uk/NRAD

Wider determinants are really important

Air pollution a cause in girl's death, coroner rules in landmark case

Coroner says failure to reduce pollution levels to legal limits was factor in death of Ella Kissi-Debrah, who had severe asthma



📍 Ella Kissi-Debrah lived within 30 metres of London's South Circular road. Photograph: PA

A coroner has made legal history by ruling that air pollution was a cause of the death of a nine-year-old girl.

Philip Barlow, the inner south London coroner, said Ella Kissi-Debrah's death in February 2013 was caused by acute respiratory failure, severe asthma and air pollution exposure.

He said she was exposed to nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter (PM) pollution in excess of World Health Organization guidelines, the principal source of which were traffic emissions.

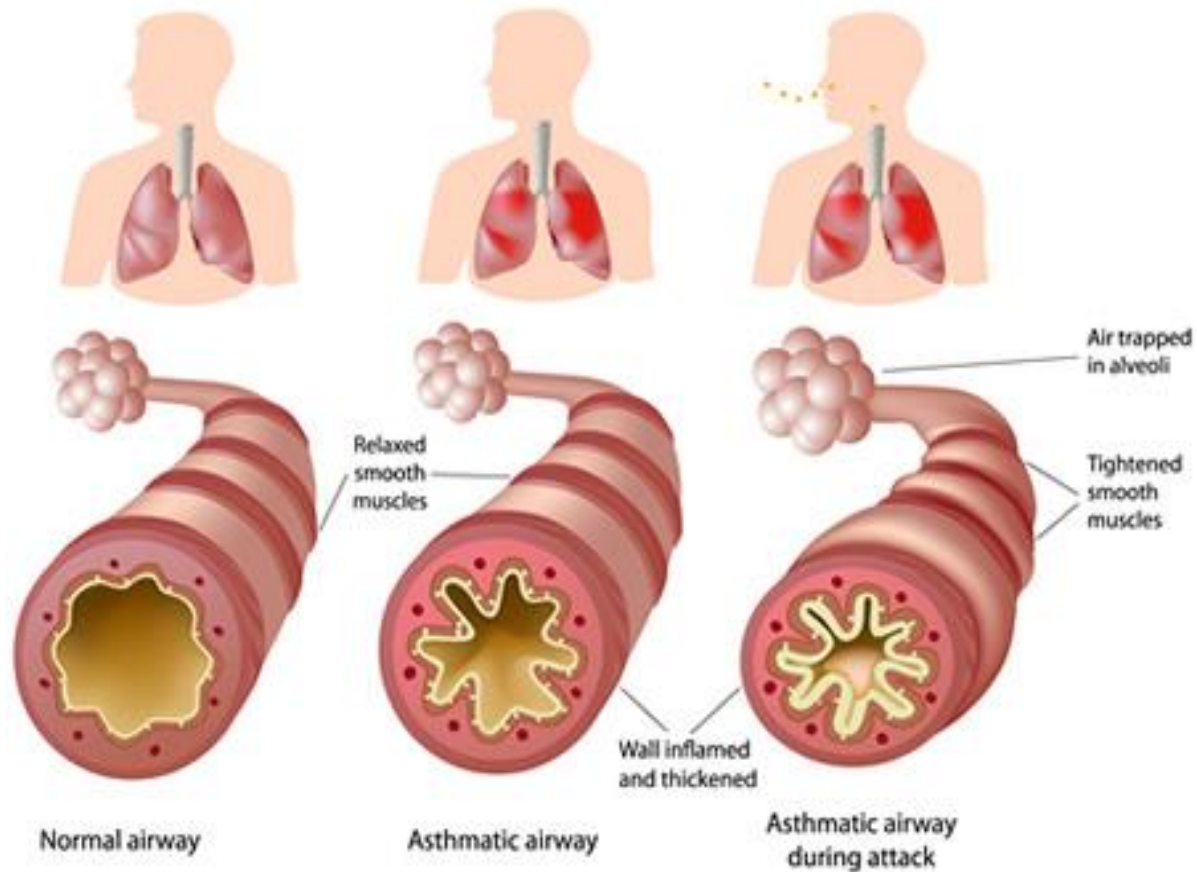
[Air pollution a cause in girl's death, coroner rules in landmark case | London | The Guardian](#)

Awaab Ishak: Toddler's death from mould triggers review of landlord guidance



[Government to deliver Awaab's Law - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Asthma definition



Recurrent symptoms
Reproducible triggers
Variable lung function
Airway inflammation
BTS/ NICE/ GINA

[Asthma Triggers: What Really Matters? - PMC \(nih.gov\)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20111111/)

Triggers

Pollen Calendar

— Main release period

█ Peak

Pollen type

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep

Hazel (Corylus)

Yew (Taxus)

Alder (Alnus)

Elm (Ulmus)

Willow (Salix)

Poplar (Populus)

Birch (Betula)

Ash (Fraxinus)

Plane (Plantanus)

Oak (Quercus)

Pine (Pinus)

Lime (Tilia)

Grass (Poaceae)

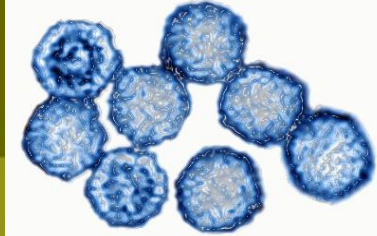
Dock (Rumex)

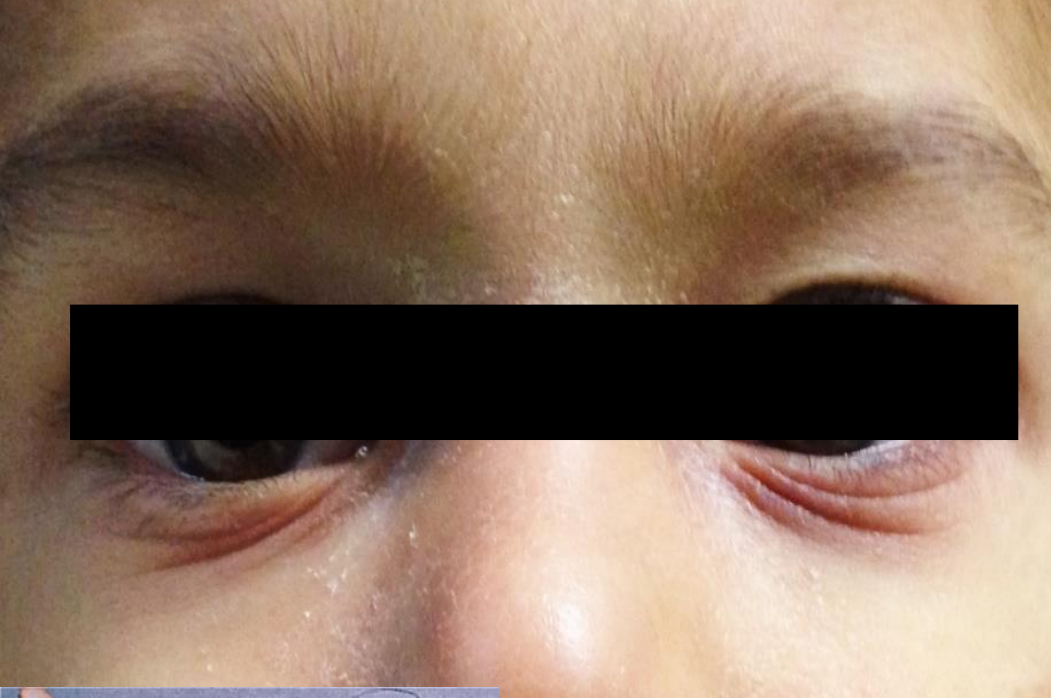
Mugwort (Artemisia)

Nettle (Urtica)

Oilseed rape (Brassica Napus)

Plantain (Plantago)





Clues to alternative diagnosis



Symptoms from birth
Chronic wet cough
Failure to thrive
Unilateral signs on chest
Sudden onset

Isolated cough
Absence of true wheeze
Paraesthesia, hyperventilation

There is no single gold standard diagnostic test for asthma



Best of three, twice daily for 2 weeks and calculate mean variability.
 $\geq 20\%$ is a positive test.



Bronchodilator reversibility.
Improvement in FEV1 of $\geq 12\%$ is a positive test.



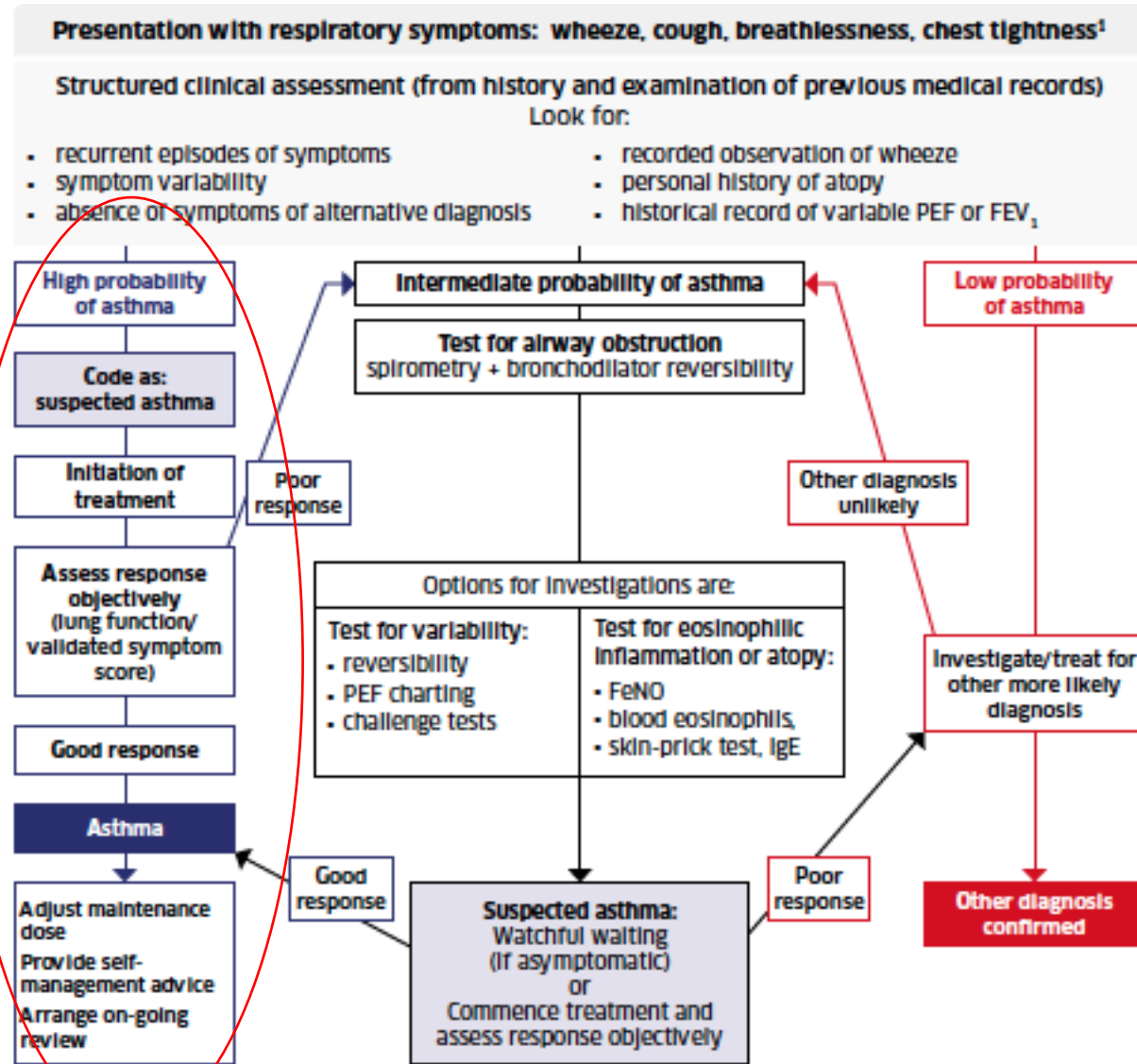
Regard a FeNO level of

- 35 ppb (NICE)
- 25 ppb (ERS)

or more as a positive test.

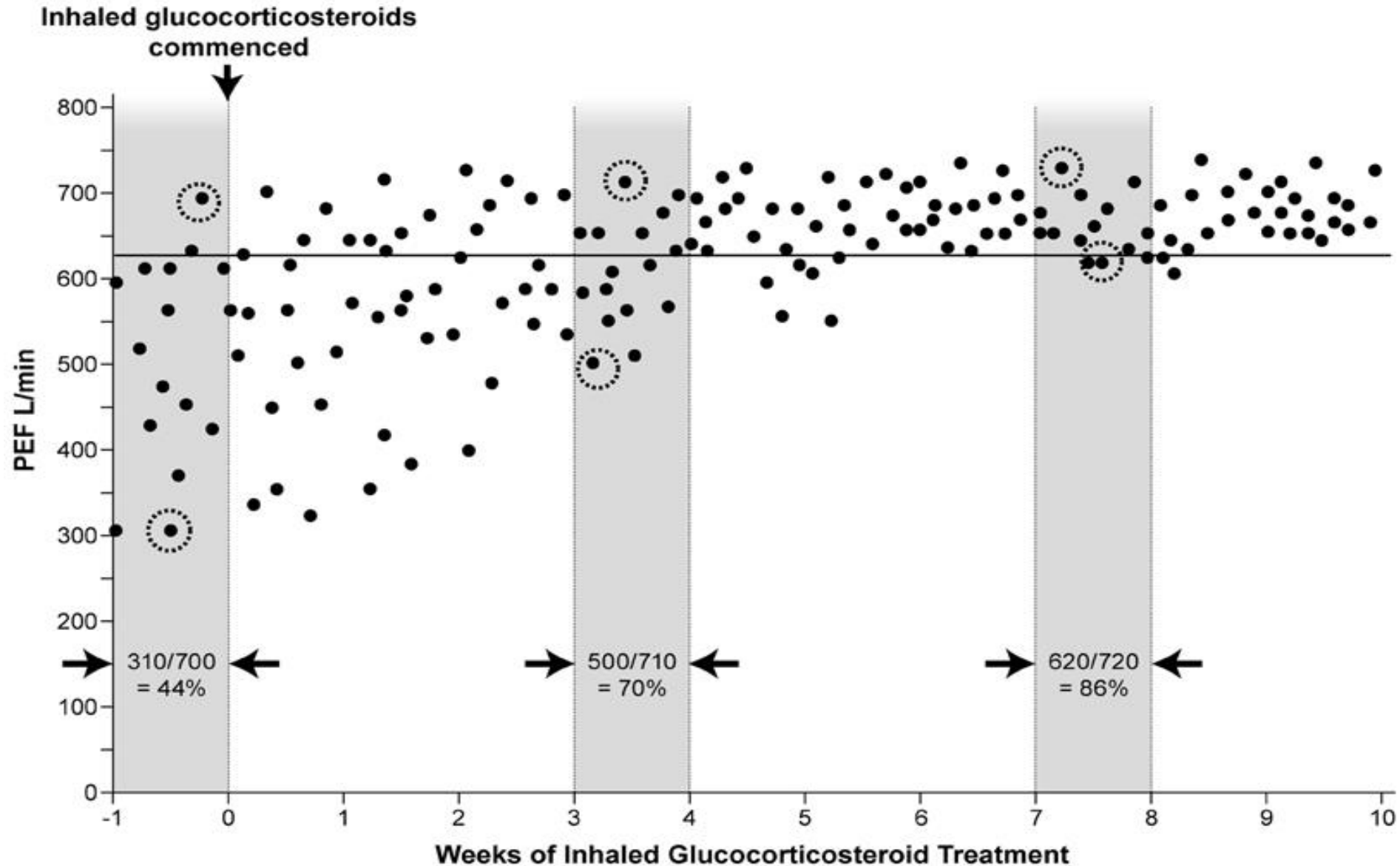
National Asthma Bundle interim update May '23
Where objective testing is **not possible**, diagnosis should be based on clinical judgement and response to trial of treatment.

BTS diagnostic algorithm 2019

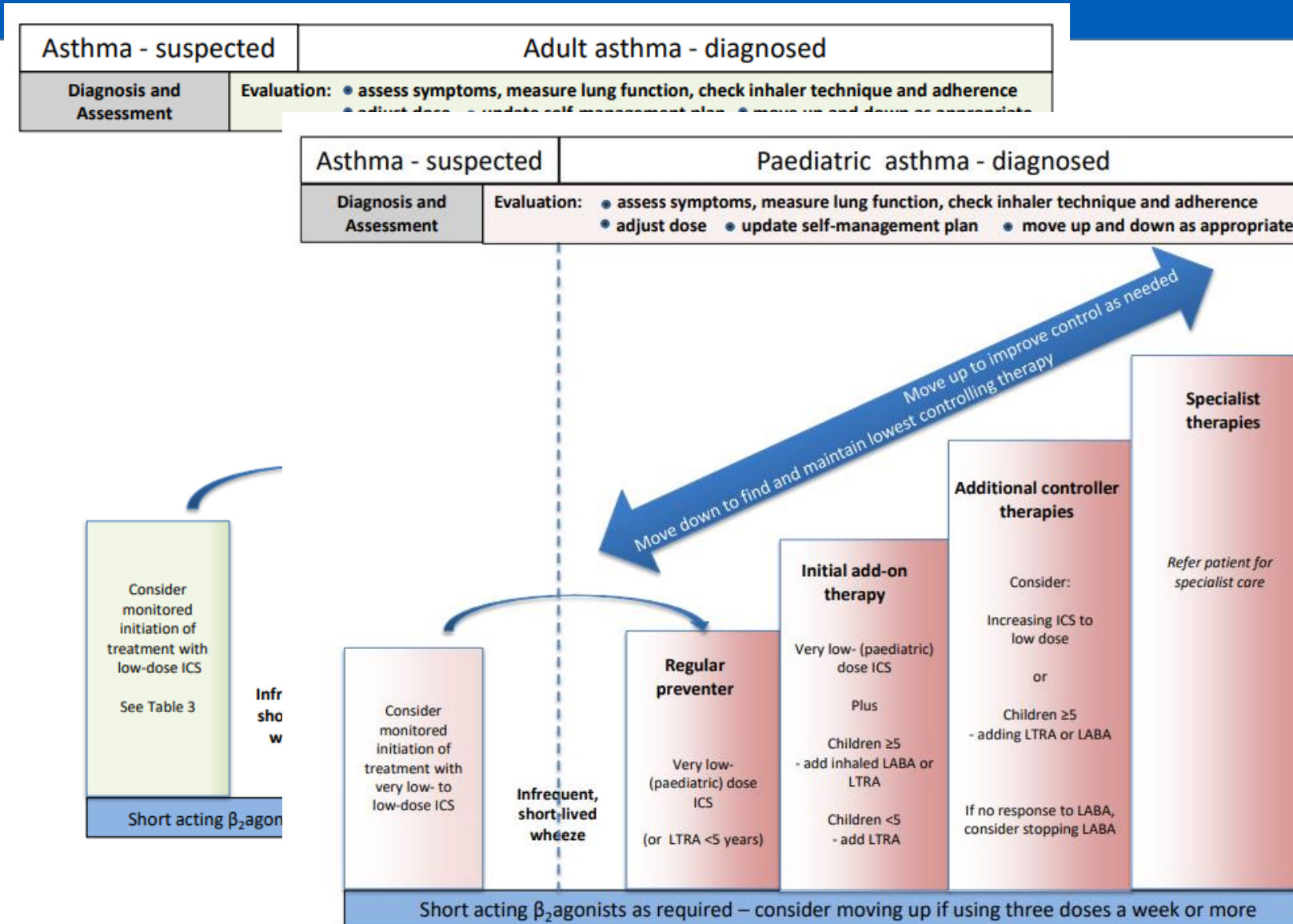


¹ In children under 5 years and others unable to undertake spirometry in whom there is a high or intermediate probability of asthma, the options are monitored initiation of treatment or watchful waiting according to the assessed probability of asthma.

The treatment of asthma is inhaled corticosteroids



Medication – see your local guideline



Poor adherence is the biggest reason for treatment failure

Reasons/ barriers

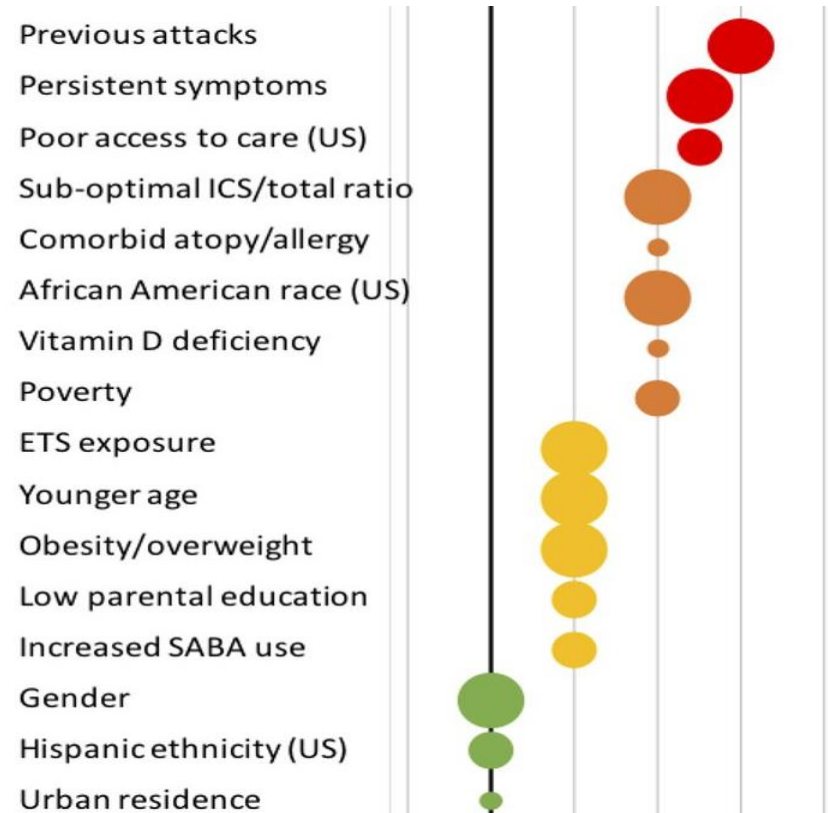
- Forgetfulness, chaotic lifestyle
- Poor supervision
- Regime complexity
- Not wanting to seem different
- Lack of understanding of correct usage
- Perceived immediate gratification, patient beliefs
- Concerns regarding side effects

Study of 93 children median age 12 years

- Inhaler use monitored electronically for median of 92 days
- Adherence poor in **two thirds of children**

Eur Respir J 2017; 50. pii: 1700910. doi: 10.1183/13993003.00910-2017

Background risk



PICU admission - long term risk of severe asthma episodes

Buelo A, McLean S, Julious S the ARC Group, *et al*
At-risk children with asthma (ARC): a systematic
review *Thorax* 2018;**73**:813-824.

Asthma control – last 4 weeks

Asthma UK is the only charity dedicated to the health and well-being of the 5.2 million people in the UK with asthma. By taking control of their asthma, most people's day-to-day lives should be free from disruption such as troubled sleep or not being able to exercise.

Asthma
Control
Test™



Why take the Asthma Control Test™?

The Asthma Control Test™ will provide you with a snapshot of how well your asthma has been controlled over the last four weeks, giving you a simple score out of 25. Asthma symptoms can vary from month to month, so it is worth keeping the test handy to see if your score changes. You can also share your results with your doctor or asthma nurse to help explain just how your asthma affects you.

Are you in control of your asthma? Or is your asthma in control of you? Here's how to find out

Step 1: Read each question below carefully, circle your score and write it in the box.

Step 2: Add up each of your five scores to get your total Asthma Control Test™ score.

Step 3: Use the score guide to learn how well you are controlling your asthma.

Q1	During the past 4 weeks , how often did your asthma prevent you from getting as much done at work, school or home?	Score:
	All of the time 1 Most of the time 2 Some of the time 3 A little of the time 4 None of the time 5	
Q2	During the past 4 weeks , how often have you had shortness of breath?	Score:
	More than once a day 1 Once a day 2 3-6 times a week 3 1-2 times a week 4 Not at all 5	
Q3	During the past 4 weeks , how often did your asthma symptoms (wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, shortness of breath) wake you up at night or earlier than usual in the morning?	Score:
	4 or more times a week 1 2-3 nights a week 2 Once a week 3 Once or twice 4 Not at all 5	
Q4	During the past 4 weeks , how often have you used your reliever inhaler (usually blue)?	Score:
	3 or more times a day 1 1-2 times a day 2 2-3 times a week 3 Once a week or less 4 Not at all 5	
Q5	How would you rate your asthma control during the past 4 weeks ?	Score:
	Not controlled 1 Poorly controlled 2 Somewhat controlled 3 Well controlled 4 Completely controlled 5	

Total Score

What does your score mean?

Score: 25 – WELL DONE

- Your asthma appears to have been **UNDER CONTROL** over the last 4 weeks.
- However, if you are experiencing any problems with your asthma, you should see your doctor or nurse.

Score: 20 to 24 – ON TARGET

- Your asthma appears to have been **REASONABLY WELL CONTROLLED** during the past 4 weeks.
- However, if you are experiencing symptoms your doctor or nurse may be able to help you.

Score: less than 20 – OFF TARGET

- Your asthma may **NOT HAVE BEEN CONTROLLED** during the past 4 weeks.
- Your doctor or nurse can recommend an asthma action plan to help improve your asthma control.



North West London

Identification of uncontrolled asthma in primary care

How many asthma attacks?
How many admissions to hospital?
How many courses of oral corticosteroids?
Number of relievers used?
Severity of episodes?



200 puffs/ MDI

1 inhaler/ year = 4 puffs a week

4 inhalers/year = 15 puffs a week

6 inhalers/year = 23 puffs a week

Number of preventers used?
If admitted, where they followed up by hospital?



200 doses/ MDI, 2 puffs BD

7 inhalers per year



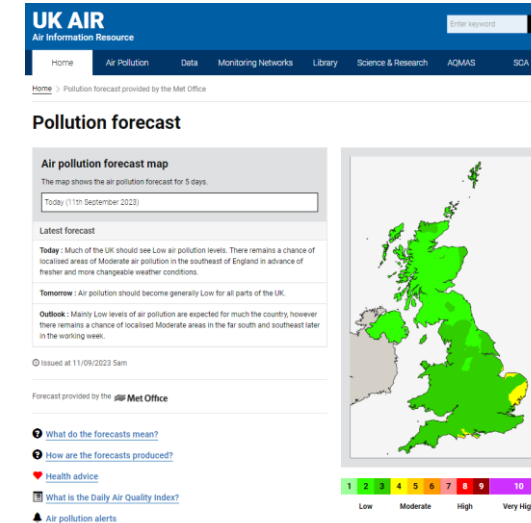
120 doses/ MDI, 2 puffs BD

12 inhalers per year

Get the basics right



“Show me how you use your inhaler”



[Pollution forecast - Defra, UK](#)
[London Air Quality Network Mobile Apps](#)

- Address adherence!
- Environmental triggers (mould/ pollution)
- Smoke/ vaping exposure
- Psychosocial/ safeguarding issues

When to refer

- Two or more courses of OCS per year
- 1 or more hospital admission/ ED attendance
- 4 or more SABA inhalers per year
- Recurrent chronic symptoms with low ACT score
- Health care professional concern
- Parental concern
- Other

If unable to gain control despite strategies to optimise, then refer

Source: Draft National Bundle Guideline May 2023

The 'Anti-Inflammatory Reliever' (AIR)



Budesonide 200mcg
Formoterol 6 mcg
(fast and long acting B₂ agonist)

For CYP age 12+ with MILD ASTHMA

As-required symbicort 200/6

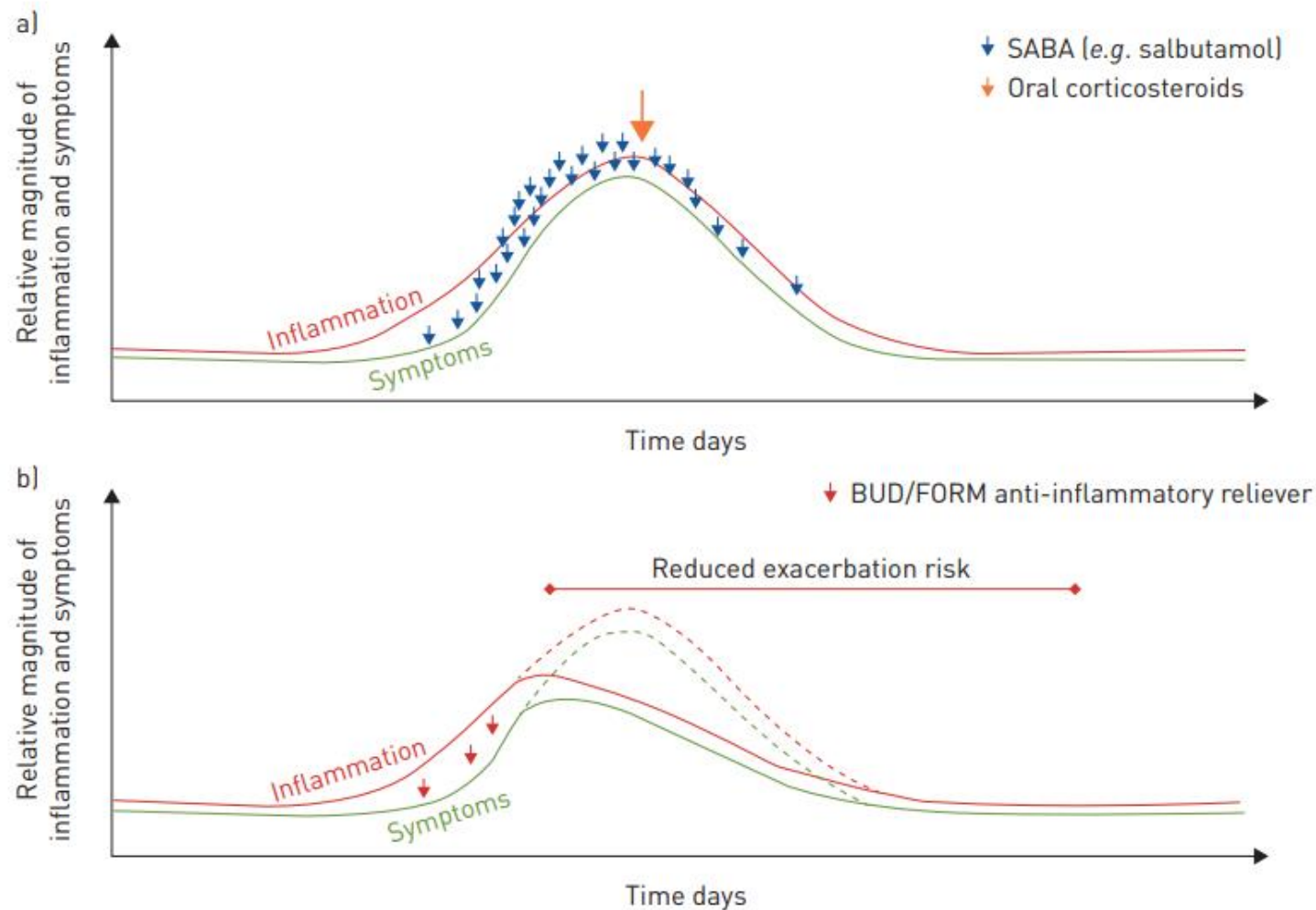
- Superior to SABA-alone
- Safe alternative to maintenance (daily) ICS +SABA PRN

“Take 1 inhalation as needed. Not more than 6 inhalations should be taken on any single occasion. If you need more than 8 puffs in any one day, seek medical review.”

Care needed with definition of ‘mild asthma’

¹Combination fixed-dose beta agonist and steroid inhaler as required for adults or children with mild asthma.
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 5 (5 studies, two including CYP 12+, n=9656)

²[2023 GINA Main Report - Global Initiative for Asthma - GINA \(ginasthma.org\)](https://ginasthma.org/)

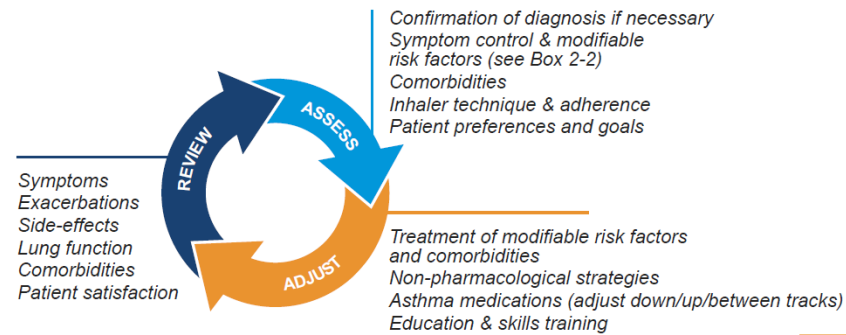


Proposed hypothesis of the mechanism of a) short-acting β 2-agonist (SABA) reliever and b) as-needed budesonide/ formoterol as anti-inflammatory reliever therapy during worsening of asthma symptoms that precedes an exacerbation.

[Variability in airway inflammation, symptoms, lung function and reliever use in asthma: anti-inflammatory reliever hypothesis and STIFLE study design \(ersjournals.com\)](https://ersjournals.com/variability-in-airway-inflammation-symptoms-lung-function-and-reliever-use-in-asthma-anti-inflammatory-reliever-hypothesis-and-stifle-study-design)

GINA 2023 – Adults & adolescents 12+ years

Personalized asthma management
Assess, Adjust, Review
for individual patient needs



TRACK 1: PREFERRED CONTROLLER and RELIEVER
Using ICS-formoterol as the reliever* reduces the risk of exacerbations compared with using a SABA reliever, and is a simpler regimen

STEPS 1 – 2
As-needed-only low dose ICS-formoterol

STEP 3
Low dose maintenance ICS-formoterol

STEP 4
Medium dose maintenance ICS-formoterol

STEP 5
Add-on LAMA
Refer for assessment of phenotype. Consider high dose maintenance ICS-formoterol, ± anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R, anti-IL4Rα, anti-TSLP

RELIEVER: As-needed low-dose ICS-formoterol*

See GINA severe asthma guide

TRACK 2: Alternative CONTROLLER and RELIEVER
Before considering a regimen with SABA reliever, check if the patient is likely to adhere to daily controller treatment

STEP 1
Take ICS whenever SABA taken*

STEP 2
Low dose maintenance ICS

STEP 3
Low dose maintenance ICS-LABA

STEP 4
Medium/high dose maintenance ICS-LABA

STEP 5
Add-on LAMA
Refer for assessment of phenotype. Consider high dose maintenance ICS-LABA, ± anti-IgE, anti-IL5/5R, anti-IL4Rα, anti-TSLP

RELIEVER: as-needed ICS-SABA*, or as-needed SABA

Other controller options (limited indications, or less evidence for efficacy or safety – see text)

Low dose ICS whenever SABA taken*, or daily LTRA, or add HDM SLIT

Medium dose ICS, or add LTRA, or add HDM SLIT

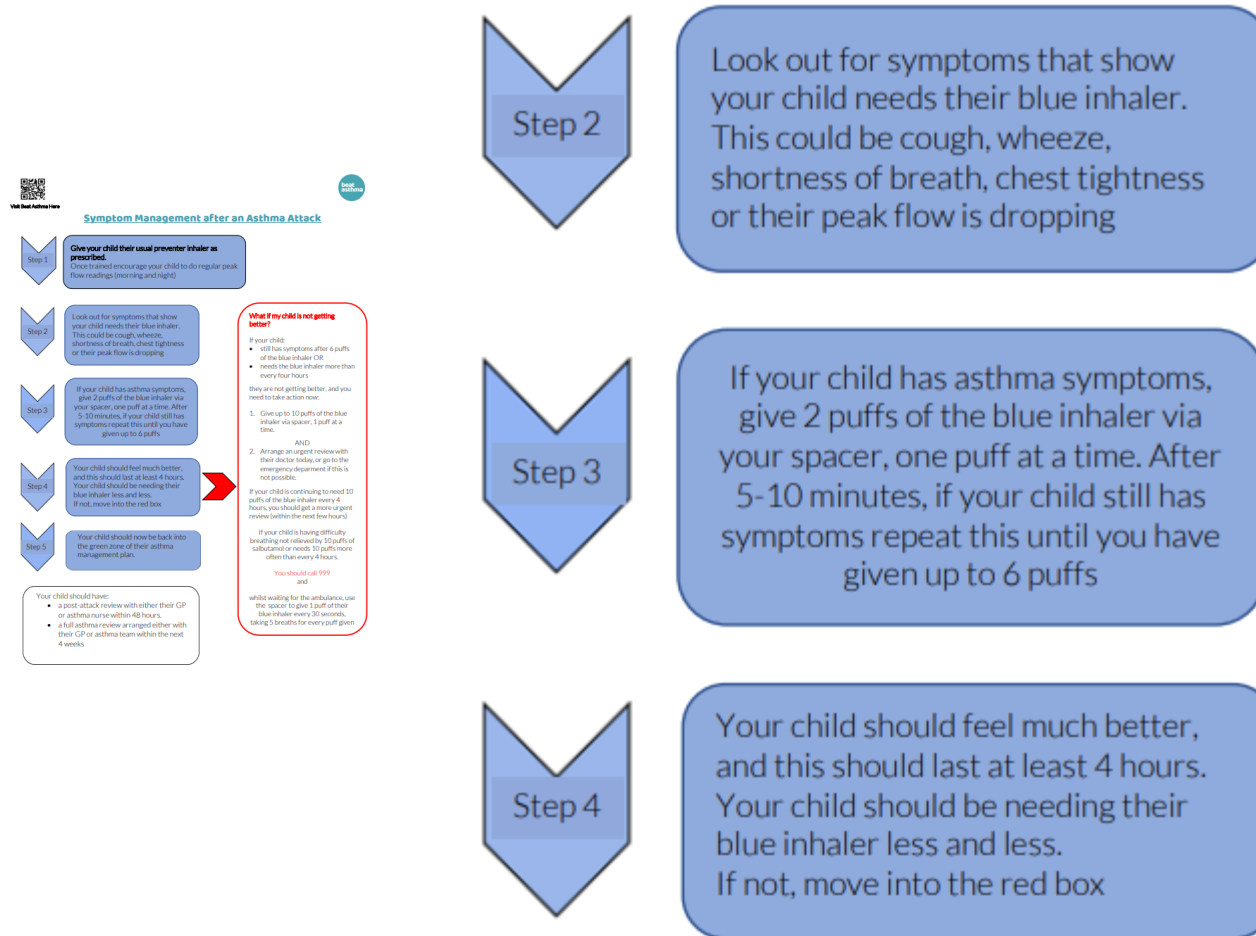
Add LAMA or LTRA or HDM SLIT, or switch to high dose ICS

Add azithromycin (adults) or LTRA. As last resort consider adding low dose OCS but consider side-effects

*Anti-inflammatory reliever (AIR)

Post-attack salbutamol plans

No more 'weaning plans'



What if my child is not getting better?

If your child:

- still has symptoms after 6 puffs of the blue inhaler OR
- needs the blue inhaler more than every four hours

they are not getting better, and you need to take action now:

1. Give up to 10 puffs of the blue inhaler via spacer, 1 puff at a time.

AND

2. Arrange an urgent review with their doctor today, or go to the emergency department if this is not possible.

If your child is continuing to need 10 puffs of the blue inhaler every 4 hours, you should get a more urgent review (within the next few hours)

If your child is having difficulty breathing not relieved by 10 puffs of salbutamol or needs 10 puffs more often than every 4 hours,

You should call 999
and

whilst waiting for the ambulance, use the spacer to give 1 puff of their blue inhaler every 30 seconds, taking 5 breaths for every puff given

Summary

Diagnosis - be pragmatic

Identify uncontrolled asthma

Get the basics right, and if not improving, refer

Tier	Level of care	Example profession	Knowledge and skills
1	Signposting 45 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social care• Education staff• Childcare providers• Leaders of children's clubs• GP receptionists• Health Care Assistants	<p>Basic awareness of asthma, its management, inhaler use and basic modifiable risk factors.</p> <p>Able to signpost families to resources.</p>
2	Supporting prescribed care 2.5 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice, School, Community and ward nurses• Health visitors• Community pharmacist• AHPs• Ambulance staff	<p>Greater understanding of the principles of asthma management and able to deliver prescribed care both routinely and in an emergency.</p> <p>Able to view asthma as a chronic condition and identify risk factors for poor control</p>
3	Assessment and prescribing of care 6 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Practitioners• Emergency department doctors• Paediatricians• Doctors in training• Nurses with a special interest• Clinical pharmacist	<p>Able to diagnose, assess and manage acute and chronic asthma.</p> <p>Able to address the factors that contribute to poor control</p>



[Access via e-learning for healthcare \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](https://e-lfh.org.uk)

A collaborative approach: How Whipps Cross are using their 48-hour review pilot to support CORE20PLUS5

Amutha Anpananthar : Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Whipps Cross Hospital

Lidia Trup, Nicholas Fine, Patrick Robins: Paediatric/ED trainees Whipps Cross Hospital

Sheraz Younas: UCC at WX clinical lead/GP Federation, NEL

Tonia Myers: CCG lead, Waltham Forest

Prita Rughani & Eliza Magnusen: Paediatric cons with asthma interest, Whipps Cross Hospital

Zara Rippington: Asthma CNS Waltham Forest

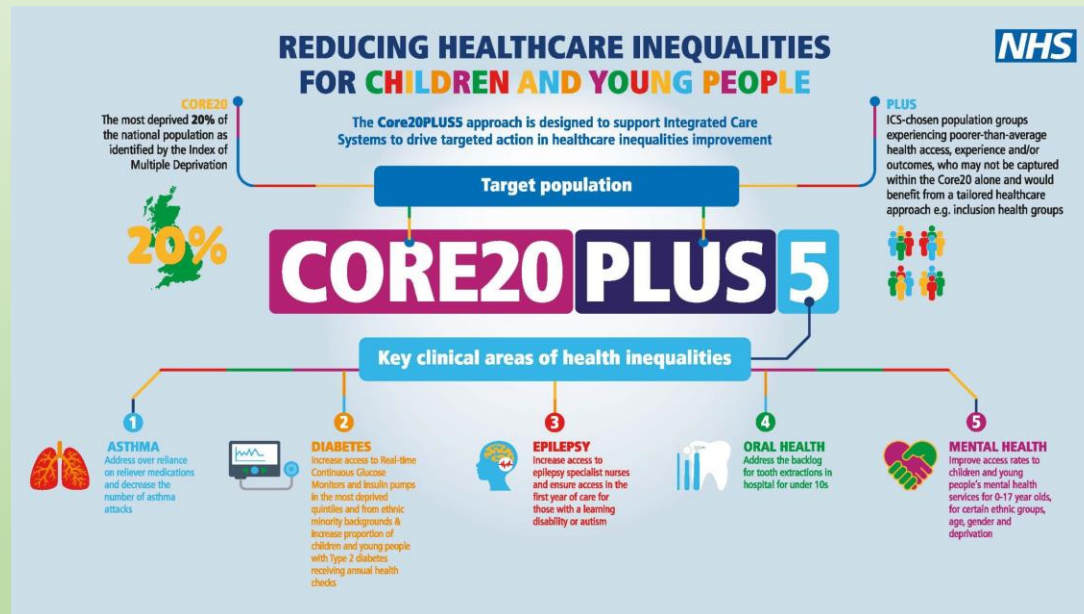
Katy Briggs: Head of Integrated Commissioning (Children and Young People) NHS NEL

Helen Cochrane/Heather Sayers: Commissioning Support Officer NHS NEL

Reducing healthcare inequalities for CYP

Asthma

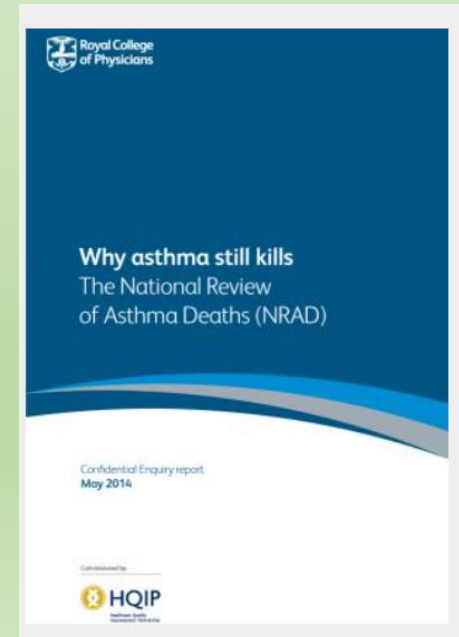
1. Address over reliance on reliever medications
2. Decrease the number of asthma attacks



Aims

Does providing an easy access 48hr-GP follow-up appointment reduce reattendance to ED?

1. Review Pilot of new 48-hour follow-up GP hub
 - Review of 48-hour GP hub
2. Phase 2 of pilot



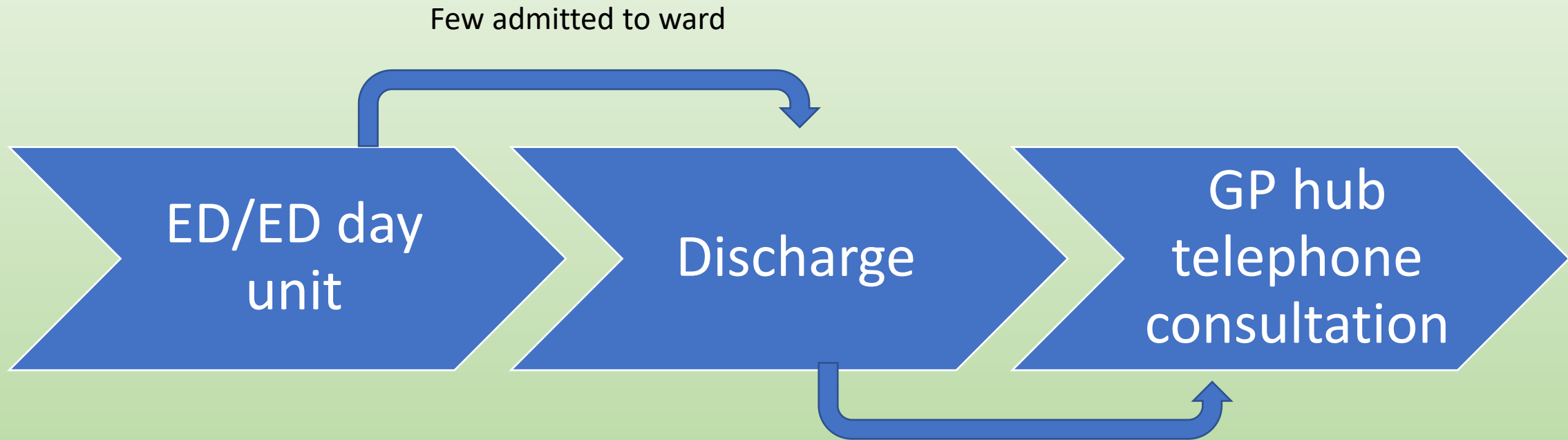
‘Follow-up arrangements must be made after every attendance at an emergency department or out-of-hours service for an asthma attack’

48-hour
follow-up
with GP

Waltham
Forest
patients only

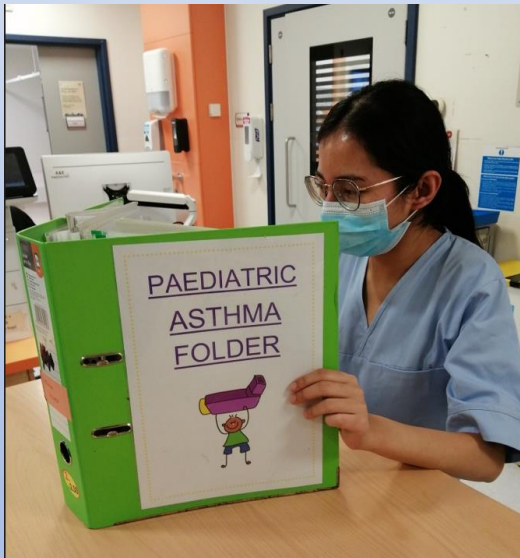
- Waltham Forest GP Federation
(partnered with NELFT to provide Urgent Treatment Centre services in Whipps Cross Hospital)
- 4 x funded 'on the day' GP appointment slots
- Not funded specifically for wheeze f/u

ED pathway



ED pathway

- Trust Asthma discharge checklist



Performed on: 25/04/2022 1731 BST

Discharge Check

General Information and Triggers

Has the patient received written asthma information leaflet ☒ Yes ☐ No

Has received smoking cessation advice if needed ☐ Yes ☐ No

Treatment

Has had medications reviewed including need for preventer introduction, change or increase ☐ Yes ☐ No

Knows the role of preventer and reliever medications, importance of taking preventer regularly and significance of reliever overuse ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has had inhaler technique explained and checked, knows importance of using spacer and knows how to clean their spacer ☐ Yes ☐ No

Discharge Information

Has received and understands their written personalised asthma plan/wheeze ☐ Yes ☐ No

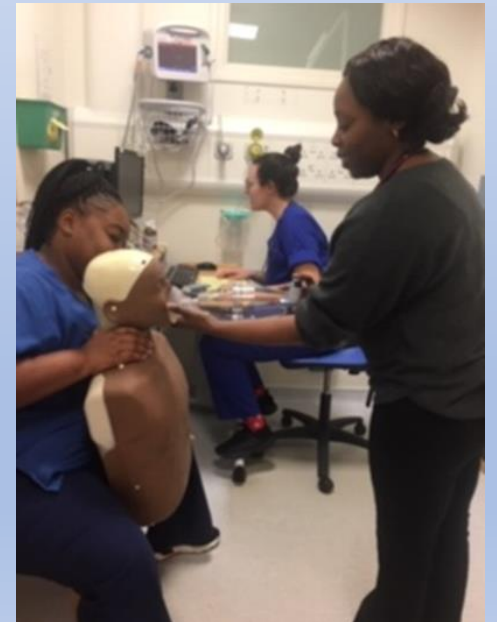
Has been asked to request GP review within 48 hours of discharge ☐ Yes ☐ No

Referred to community asthma nurse ☐ Yes ☐ No

1. ED data: Snapshot Nov-Dec 2021

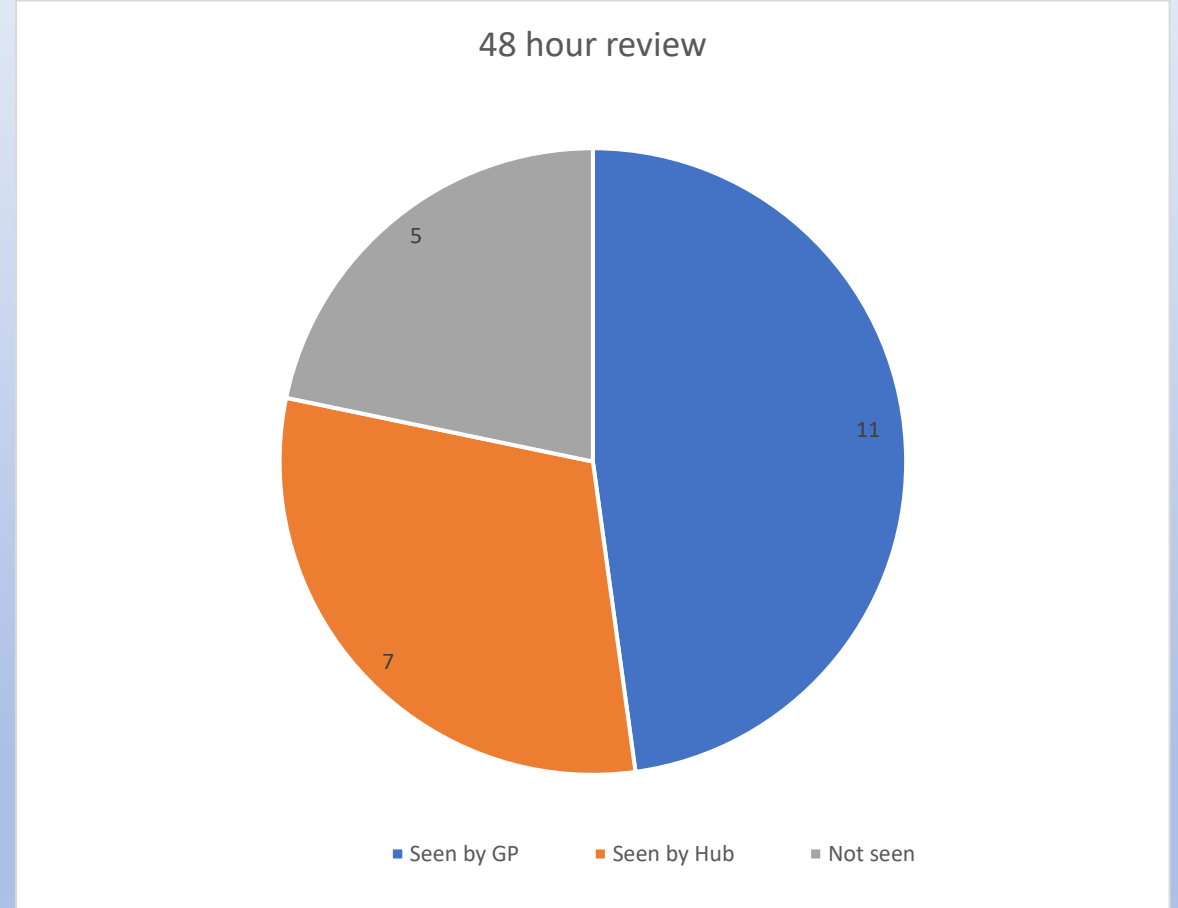
Qu 1: Was Trust discharge guidance followed and documented

- 17 had a documented medication review (19%)
- 13 had a discussion covering the role of preventer (15%)
- 5 received a personalised asthma plan (6%)
- 7 were referred to asthma nurse (8%)
- 68 were advised to book with GP or Hub (76%)



Qu 2: Patient experience

- 23 families contacted
- Of those seen by the Hub, all rated booking system as excellent and all had phone consultations booked for them



Qu 2:Patient experience continued

- Areas of patient dissatisfaction
 - Many patients struggled to contact own GP
- Of the 7 seen by Hub
 - All were happy that an appointment was booked
 - 5 (71%) would have preferred own GP if access was easier, but they knew it would be difficult to get own

2. GP hub

- Collaborative
- Telephone consult
- Proforma



Proforma

48hr Paediatric Wheeze Review - Template Runner

MOUSE, Micky (Mr)Born 18-Dec-1977 (45y)Gender MaleNHS No. Unknown

Template Runner

48 Hour Paediatric Wheeze/Asthma Review
48 Hour Paediatric Wheeze/Asthma Review Template
Created June 2021: Dr Sheraz Younas. Not a CEG report.

This template is to be used for those children who have been managed in hospital for an acute episode of wheeze or asthma and have been discharged from the ward or ED with an inhaler weaning plan.

Hovering over an entry will give you supplemental information. Some questions seem confusing because it is aligning to EMIS coded entries.

The normal post discharge Bart's Salbutamol Weaning Plan is:
Day 1 -- 10 puffs -- every 4 hours
Day 2 -- 10 puffs -- every 6 hours
Day 3 -- 10 puffs -- every 8 hours
Day 4 -- 10 puffs -- twice per day
Day 5 -- Stop if no wheeze or give when needed

Control features

<input type="checkbox"/> Managed in Emergency Department for asthma/wheeze	Follow Up	03-Mar-2023	No previous entry
<input type="checkbox"/> Managed in ward for asthma/wheeze		03-Mar-2023	No previous entry
<input type="checkbox"/> Discharged from hospital	Follow Up	03-Mar-2023	No previous entry
Number of Emergency/ward attendances over the past one year:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Asthma diagnosis? (usually under 5yrs old do not have a diagnosis)			No previous entry
<input type="checkbox"/> Patient has a written asthma personal action plan			No previous entry
Number of oral steroid courses in past one year (not Dex stats):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Oral steroid courses last used. (more than 2 courses steroids requires referral to asthma CNS)			No previous entry
<input type="checkbox"/> Inhaled steroids use (check compliance)			No previous entry
<input type="checkbox"/> Spacer device in use			No previous entry
Yellow spacer - 1-5yrs Green spacer - 5-12yrs Blue spacer - >12yrs			
<input type="checkbox"/> Inhaler technique checked			No previous entry
Good videos to share with parents regarding Inhaler technique: https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhaler-videos/			
Before exacerbation, how many times are bronchodilators used per week		/week	No previous entry
If using >3 times a week, it implies poor control of symptoms and may need consideration of a preventer inhaler			

Cancel

48hr Paediatric Wheeze Review - Template Runner

MOUSE, Micky (Mr)Born 18-Dec-1977 (45y)Gender MaleNHS No. Unknown

Template Runner

Yellow spacer - 1-5yrs
Green spacer - 5-12yrs
Blue spacer - >12yrs
☐ Inhaler technique checked
Good videos to share with parents regarding Inhaler technique:
<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhaler-videos/>
Before exacerbation, how many times are bronchodilators used per week
If using >3 times a week, it implies poor control of symptoms and may need consideration of a preventer inhaler
☐ Asthma annual review
Follow Up
03-Mar-2023
No previous entry

Traffic Light Triage

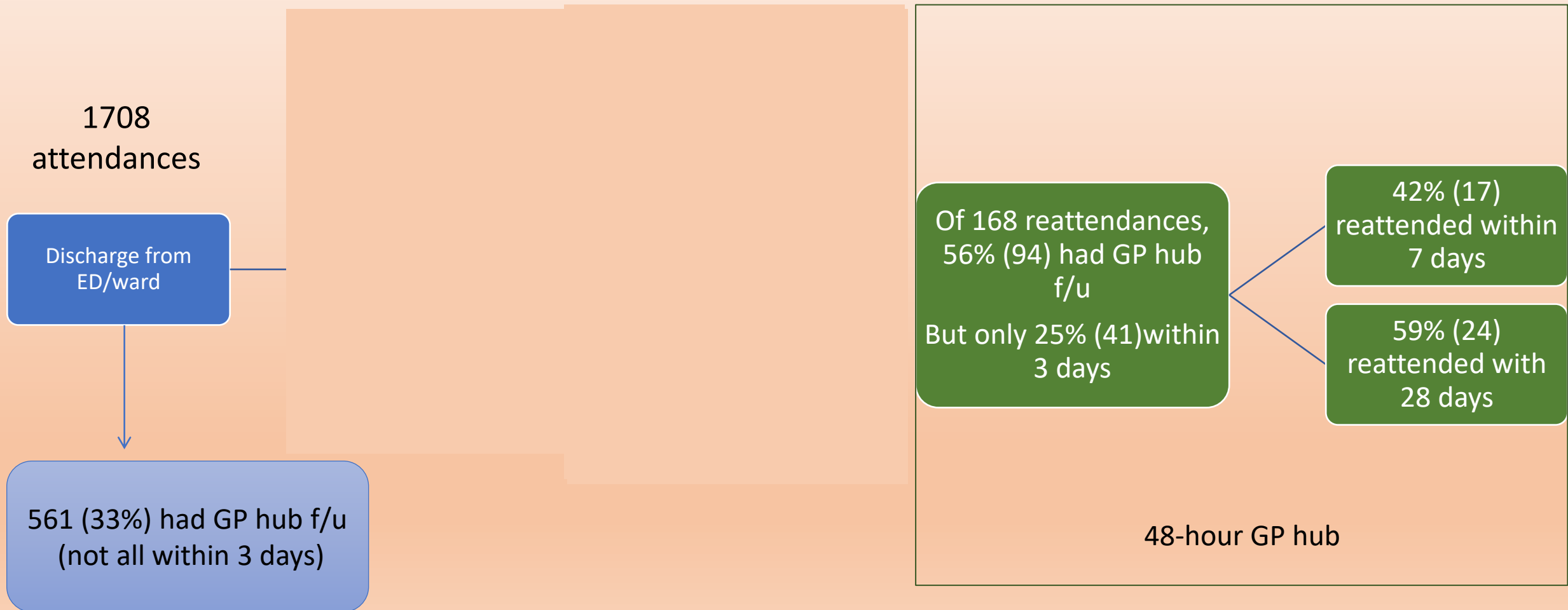
Breathing Symptoms score		No previous entry
Send to ED if: Respiratory distress / Tachypnoea / Unable to speak in one breath Complete F2F if: Wheeze or persistent cough		
Progression		08-Apr-2021 Patient's con... >
If worsening - direct to ED		
Salbutamol use		
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Light Total score:	Text	

Outcome

<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome: Passed to community paediatric asthma nurse for review		
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent given by person with parental responsibility for referral		No previous entry
<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome: Emergency attendance to Emergency Department		
<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome: Passed to GP for routine/annual review		
<input type="checkbox"/> If child becomes unwell and no longer responds to salbutamol, call 999		
<input type="checkbox"/> During telephone contact if in doubt, book a review with the GP (eg if language barrier or uncertain of level of understanding)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Child safeguarding concern? Please Refer to Safeguarding Team		No previous entry
<input type="checkbox"/> No safeguarding issues identified		No previous entry
<input type="checkbox"/> If parents have concerns or questions regarding asthma treatment and child not acutely unwell, refer to asthma plan. Contact practice nurse		

Cancel

2. Reattendance to ED: Oct 2021-Oct 2022



2. Asthma CNS referrals

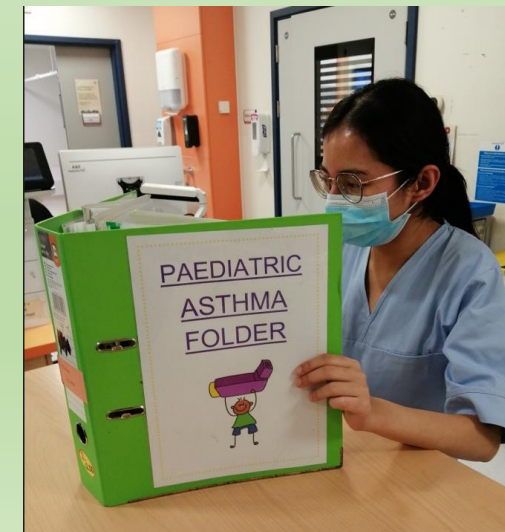
- No referrals received from GP-hub
- 14 met criteria but not referred
- 11 received from ED
- Others referred from ward/asthma cons
- Not in borough

Themes/Learning

- Why are 100% not referred to 48 hour-GP hub?
 - ED process
 - GP hub availability
- Why are patients reattending ED after GP-hub review (within 7 or 28 days)
 - Poor compliance already under specialists
 - Need more appropriate asthma CNS referrals

Phase 2

- Business case for Band 3 in GP hub
 - Data
 - Refer any missed patients for GP hub
 - Refer to asthma CNS (all boroughs)
- ED: Continued training and awareness of asthma discharge
 - ED Operational aspects
 - Escalate frequent attenders
- GP Hub: Quality Assure (Tier 2 and 3 training)
 - Quality assure consultations
 - How to connect to existing community input
 - Role of F2F vs telephone consultation
 - Ask GPs how they want education (video vs F2F)
- Reaudit and compare reattendance data



Questions?

