Cheshire & Merseyside Respiratory Clinical Network 12+ Asthma patient pathway

Primary Care | **Specialist Care** | **Severe Asthma Service**

Suspected Asthma

- History and Examination Suggestive of Asthma
- Arrange diagnostic tests in line with **national guidance**
- Consider peak flow diary and starting PRN ICS/formoterol if delay in diagnostics expected
- If applicable:
- Refer to Stop smoking Services
- Refer to Weight Management Services

Link to NICE Asthma Guidelines

*Also consider referral to community pharmacy for the New Medicines Service including technique check

Is the diagnosis of asthma confirmed?

No → **Is asthma still clinically suspected?**

Yes → **Start treatment for asthma and refer to specialist service**

No → **Can alternative diagnosis be made?**

Yes → **Follow appropriate disease pathway**

No → **Referral to local asthma specialist service Treat and Assess**

- Diagnostic confirmation with phenotyping
- Additional investigations
- Optimise treatment and address co-morbidity
- Liaise with severe asthma service

Confirmed Asthma diagnosis?

No → **Explore other diagnosis**

Yes → Optimise in line with **C&M 12+ Asthma Treatment Guidelines**

Link to C&M 12+ Asthma Treatment Guidelines

Yes → **Clinically optimise/initiate treatment in line with C&M 12+ Asthma Treatment Guidelines**

Link to C&M 12+ Asthma Treatment Guidelines

- Ensure correct inhaler technique*
- Complete Personalised Asthma Action Plans
- Patient education

Link to Asthma | Asthma + Lung UK (asthmaandlung.org.uk)

Review after initial treatment. ***Is the patient poorly controlled?***

No → **Prioritise review for High Risk Patients**

Annual Asthma Review (including):

- Review Personalised Asthma Action Plan (written or app)
- Review (and correct if necessary) inhaler technique*
- Assess and discuss adherence
- Consider other factors that may impact on symptoms including smoking, mental health disease, physical activity, housing situation and environmental factors

Link to Asthma and Lung UK Asthma Action Plan template

Link to Asthma Action Plan App

Link to Breathing Point
Check local pages for information on available support

Yes → **Patient Review** Does the patient remain poorly controlled?

Yes → Optimise in line with **C&M 12+ Asthma Treatment Guidelines**

Link to C&M 12+ Asthma Treatment Guidelines

Asthma Attack/ Hospitalisation

Yes → **Is the patient poorly controlled?** i.e. overuse of reliever inhaler, multiple use of OCS, excessive admissions

No → **Continue annual asthma reviews**

No → **Patient Review** Does the patient remain poorly controlled?

Refer to specialist care if poorly controlled despite Optimisation as per C&M Guidelines and review x2 or patient has had an ITU admission for an asthma attack.

Yes → **Has the patient had two or more OCS in the past year?**

Yes → **Referral to Severe Asthma Service**

No → **Continue annual asthma reviews**

Patient Review Is the patient's condition stable?

Yes → **Refer to Primary Care for continued monitoring**

No → **Liaise with Severe Asthma Service – is the patient optimised/ controlled?**

Yes → **Refer to Primary Care for continued monitoring**

No → **Referral to Severe Asthma Service**

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