

ASTHMA

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

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Introduction

Woodingdean Medical Centre is a medium sized practice in Brighton, East Sussex.

In 2022 we met as a team of 4 nurses and one GP to review current prescribing practice, asthma review process and current guidance.

Problem

Patients on SABA alone or prescribed inhalers without a diagnosis of airways disease

Aim

To meet or exceed asthma prescribing standards and to identify those with uncontrolled asthma

Intervention

- We chose the GINA 2022 guidance
- Greener Practice Asthma Toolkit for audit
- PCIT and Ardens searches for casefinding
- Increased access to diagnostic tests
- Fortnightly in-house educational meetings
- Day to day case discussions 'open door policy'
- Teaching to the wider PCN staff

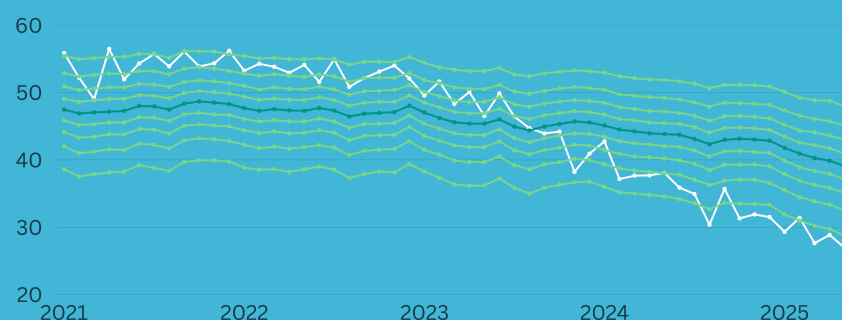
Impact

- Increased uptake of annual asthma review
- Reduced the number of patients on SABA only
- Identified and coded those with suspected asthma and systematically reviewed to reach a diagnosis
- Offered MART or AIR therapy to eligible patients
- Increased clinician skills and confidence, ARTP training, accreditation and nurse-led prescribing

Analysis of Prescribing Data

- Reduction in SABA from 55% to 25% of prescriptions (see figure right)
- % pMDI reduced from 50% to 30%
- Reduction in mean kg CO₂e per inhaler in line with national average from 25kg to 15kg
- Reduction in rates of high dose ICS prescribing from 14% to 5%

Number of short acting beta agonist (SABA) inhalers compared with number of all inhaled corticosteroid inhalers and SABA inhalers (%) (National deciles in green)



Conclusion

We successfully improved quality by taking an educational approach, for clinicians and patients alike. We established an asthma team who shared responsibility for learning and monitoring improvement. Feedback told us that:

- understanding the condition brought clarity on diagnosis, self-management and prescribing rationale
- a strong basis in the latest guidance and research brought confidence to embrace new approach
- practice culture changed, regarding asthma as an important condition with effective treatments

Greener Practice asthma toolkit
Data from Openprescribing

greenerpractice.co.uk/asthma-toolkit/
openprescribing.net/practice/G81065/measures/?tags=respiratory