

Evidence-based implementation for large scale change in asthma management: a collation of case studies submitted to NICE on implementation of guideline NG245 – Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management (BTS, NICE, SIGN)

McCormack J ¹, Taylor E¹, Moran D¹, Metcalfe B¹

¹ National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Background

In November 2024, NICE published a collaborative guideline with the British Thoracic Society (BTS) and the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) on Asthma¹ - described by many practitioners as ‘the biggest change in Asthma management in a decade’.

Following guidance publication, NHS organisations were encouraged to submit case studies to NICE on uptake and adoption to showcase nationally. The following Asthma related case studies were shared and are on the NICE website².

Note: Case studies are a real-world example of uptake and adoption. They enable sharing of implementation activities, outcomes and learning nationally, including how to overcome barriers to implementation.

Improving urgent care asthma management through education - Hampshire & Isle of Wight ICB / Asthma + Lung UK (Integrated Care Board / Charity sector)

Highlights the value of online and in-person education sessions delivered to urgent care clinicians.

Paediatric asthma and smoking: initiative to identify & treat - Health Innovation Manchester (Health Innovation Network (HIN))

Shows how colleagues from HIN Manchester linked paediatric asthma and a household approach to smoking cessation support identifying, addressing and minimising healthcare inequalities.

SABA-free asthma pathways in a large PCN - Living Well Partnership PCN (NHS – Primary Care Network)

Talks about the implementation of a new respiratory pathway to improve early and accurate diagnosis of chronic long disease and to enhance patient outcomes.

Implementing NICE guidelines to improve children & young people’s asthma care - Brent Integrated Care Partnership (Integrated Care System)

Showcases how a London Borough reshaped services at a place-based level.

Neighbourhood Respiratory Model: Improving access & proactive care - Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust Placed Based Division (NHS Trust / Primary Care Network)

Illustrates how a pharmacist-led one-stop respiratory clinic across PCNs identified patients with severe asthma eligible for asthma biologics.

Transforming access to respiratory diagnostics: addressing a critical healthcare gap in the Armagh and Dungannon area - Federation of family GP Practices (Not for-profit community interest company)

Outlines the implementation and impact of a mobile advanced respiratory diagnostics service.

Case studies shared with NICE are visible on the NICE website; and the NICE Uptake and Adoption Support workspace³, on NHS Futures.

Impact of the guidance

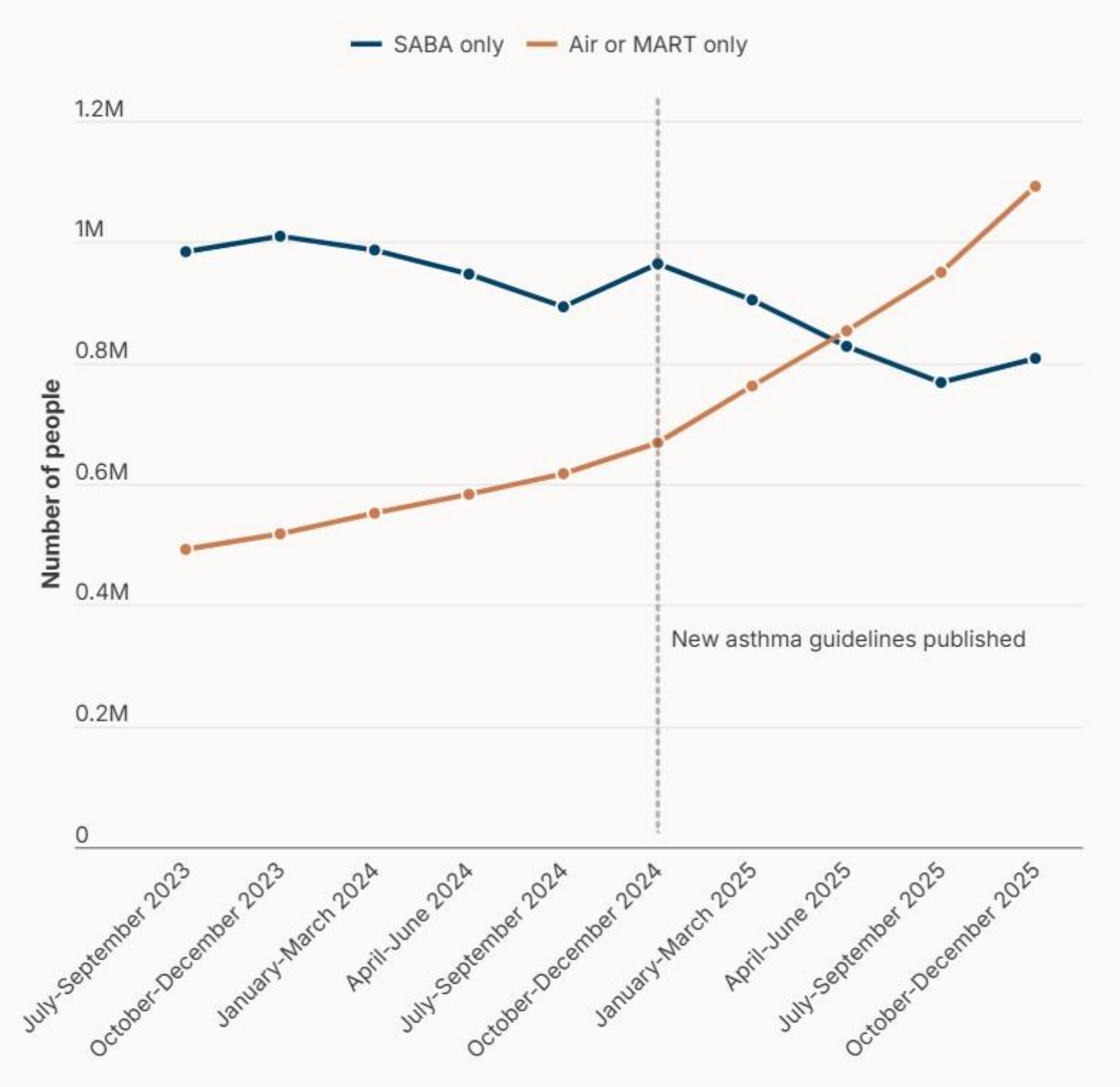
Figure 1 shows prescribing is moving in the expected direction; AIR/MART prescribing has increased while SABA use has declined, although uptake continues to vary across Integrated Care Boards.

The impact of the case studies

The case studies show how the guidance can be leveraged to reshape services at a place-based level. They are adaptable to the needs of vulnerable communities when applied to reduce barriers to care, demonstrating whole-system integration. Evidence-based healthcare should be complemented by evidence-based implementation with partners, communication, resources and interventions.

If you have a respiratory example of using NICE guidance to improve care, please get in touch. We want to hear from you.

Figure 1: Number of people using SABA or AIR/MART inhalers in England



Source: NICE analysis of NHS England data

References:

- <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng245>
- <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng245/resources>
- <https://future.nhs.uk/NICEUptakeandAdoptionSupport/view?objectID=63792496>

Joanne McCormack
Implementation Consultant
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
Email: joanne.mccormack@nice.org.uk

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