

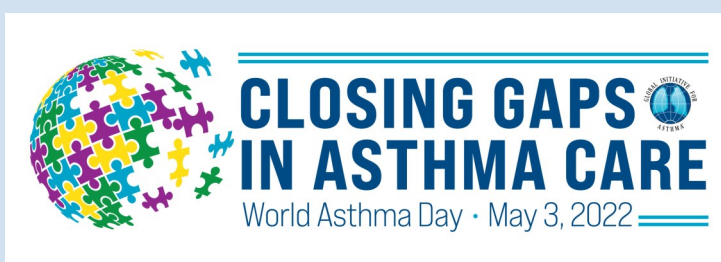


Newsletter

SPOTLIGHT ON: World Asthma Day

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The theme for World Asthma Day 2022 is **Closing Gaps in Asthma Care** so why not take the opportunity to think about the gaps that may be impacting your patients with asthma....

What springs to mind for the Rotherham Respiratory Team is a combination of the challenges in delivering high standards of basic "essential" asthma care, and the impact that the wider determinants of health have on people with asthma. People with asthma living in the most deprived areas of the UK experience the worst health outcomes and this is especially true for people with asthma. Reporting the worst basic care levels since 2015, the latest [annual survey](#) from Asthma + Lung UK informs us that the UK has one of the worst asthma death rates in Europe and that asthma deaths have increased by

26% in the last decade. The charity is calling for access to high quality basic (we like to call it "essential") asthma care for all, and here at Rotherham Respiratory we are doing our bit by providing excellent asthma education for all healthcare professionals. We understand that asthma is a complex condition and we believe education is the key to delivering the best possible asthma care. Our priority is for our learners to feel confident and competent in the following essential aspects of asthma care:

- Accurate diagnosis
- Effective assessment and management
- Understanding and identifying patients who may be at risk
- Supporting patients to self-manage their asthma
- Managing asthma attacks

In the Asthma + Lung UK annual survey more than 50% of respondents reported feeling that their asthma is not taken seriously and almost half had uncontrolled asthma symptoms. The survey highlights that the poorest people are affected the most with those in low-income households more likely to have uncontrolled asthma than those in high-income households. All Rotherham Respiratory asthma courses focus on the essential aspects of asthma care but in a unique approach that supports learners to identify the gaps impacting their patients and develop strategies to **Close the Gaps**.

Join the conversation on [Twitter](#) and tell us what gaps impact your patients with asthma.

By Viv Marsh.

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Greener Respiratory Healthcare and what it really means

Such a hot topic, and rightly so. But mixed messages abound, are you confused? Are your patients confused?

In our respiratory courses we explore the whole range of issues that are relevant including:

- Air quality
- Accurate diagnosis
- Optimising asthma control
- Inhaler devices and inhaler technique
- Preventing asthma attacks
- Personalised care
- Integrated care
- Harnessing digital approaches for effective asthma care



We think that the resource produced by The Primary Care Respiratory Society on this topic is excellent because it considers the whole range of issues and most importantly it focusses on patients and quality of care. So if you want a quick read with your next cuppa, have a look at the [PCRS Greener Respiratory Healthcare Toolkit](#)

Children and Young People's Asthma Transformation

Have you heard about the National Bundle of Care to Transform Children and Young People's Asthma?

Asthma outcomes for children and young people in the UK are really poor. Many children live in poverty which leads directly to asthma risk factors such as exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollution. And the UK has the highest asthma death rate in adolescents and young adults in Europe. Shocking, I'm sure you will agree!

Launched in September 2021 the bundle, which aims to improve outcomes for children and young people with asthma, is now being implemented across England. Every area should now have a designated Clinical Lead for Children and Young People's Asthma Transformation and their role will be to drive improvement across their Integrated Care System.

The 5 priority areas within the bundle are:



Further details about the bundle and the associated resources can be found [here](#).

Rotherham Respiratory has always provided Paediatric Asthma training but we are now delighted to announce the launch of our new [Paediatric Asthma Advancing Care course](#). Developed by a team of clinical experts; nurses and doctors working with children and young people in primary, secondary and tertiary care, this course steps up a level, offering a beyond the basics learning programme for any healthcare professional working with children and young people who have asthma.

There is no doubt that there are gaps in the delivery of effective asthma care for children and young people and, here at Rotherham Respiratory, we want to **Close the Gap**. We know that managing paediatric asthma is something many healthcare professionals working in a generalist role feel less confident with. And for those wishing to develop their expertise in paediatric asthma, education and support is hard to find. Our new [Paediatric Asthma Advancing Care course](#) offers a fantastic solution to the problem. This course covers the basics (essentials) and beyond, exploring the patient, family, healthcare professional and organisational barriers to effective care. Learners will work through a structured programme of education, aligned to the national bundle of care, to develop and build on their knowledge and skills for managing asthma in this age group so that they receive the best possible asthma care, live well with their asthma and avoid poor health outcomes such as asthma attacks or worse.

By Viv Marsh.



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Becoming a Queen's Nurse was one of the highlights of 2021 for [Viv Marsh](#), our Asthma Tutor. Queen's Nurses demonstrate high standards of nursing care in the community and the Queen's Nurse network fosters the values and principles on which nursing practice is grounded. Viv's award followed a comprehensive and detailed application process which she says is not for the faint hearted but is definitely worth it.

"My application allowed me to reflect candidly on my passion and commitment for excellent asthma care and the value that high quality education adds to the care that nurses provide for their patients. I really am very proud to be able to call myself a Queen's Nurse and I would encourage others to apply"

For more information visit the [Queen's Nursing Institute website](#)

A word from Ann McMurray...

I am the current chair of the [National Paediatric Respiratory and Allergy Nurses Group \(NPRANG\)](#). NPRANG encourages the professional and clinical progress of nurses involved in the delivery and development of care for children and young people with respiratory disease and/ or allergic disease by providing forums for education, debate and sharing of best practice, nursing mentorship and networking opportunities and opportunities to influence policy and decision-making processes.

Recently I have had the privilege to be involved in the Advancing paediatric asthma care module as a guest tutor. It is vitally important that all clinicians are educated to an appropriate level in relation to the level of asthma care they are providing. This course will help address the gap in available educational modules relating to paediatric asthma care.



NPRANG

National Paediatric Respiratory and Allergy Nurses Group

Research opportunity to improve asthma care in your practice



IMplementing
IMproved
Asthma self-management
as RouTine

Interested in implementing some asthma improvements in your practice? Joining the **IMPART** programme could help you to **Close the Gaps**.

Implementing Improved Asthma self-management as Routine is a research programme aiming to improve asthma outcomes by focussing on supporting patients to self-manage more effectively and is currently recruiting GP practices. To find out more see the [IMPART programme website](#).