



PRIMIS

making clinical data work

Contact PRIMIS
enquiries@primis.nottingham.ac.uk
0115 846 6420
nottingham.ac.uk/primis

Asthma Care quality improvement tool

The Asthma Care quality improvement tool is free to all PRIMIS Hub members in England.

Asthma Care is a comprehensive, easy-to-use tool that enables GP practices to audit their clinical data helping them to optimise the management and care of patients with active asthma and reduce their risk of exacerbation and hospital admission.

The tool also assists with case finding activity, encouraging practices to establish a more accurate prevalence rate and identify patients who may have the disease but do not have a diagnosis recorded.

Asthma Care uses CHART software to create highly visual practice-level summaries in the form of a dashboard and practice results table, as well as providing the ability to drill down to examine detailed patient care at an individual level.

CHART Online provides the ability for practices to benchmark themselves securely and anonymously against others both locally and nationally.

Benefits of the Asthma Care quality improvement tool

asthma management
audit standards of care against BTS/SIGN guidelines
management audit benefits include:

audits patient care against current best practice guidelines for patients with active asthma

uses patients' medication history to summarise treatment strategies based upon the BTS/SIGN stepwise approach

highlights patients whose current treatment step may require review

summarises practice achievement of the Royal College of Physicians' '3 questions' outcome measure which assess asthma patient wellbeing

reports on key factors that are associated with an increased risk of exacerbation

summarises important prescribing data in order to highlight patients with high short-acting β_2 agonist (SABA) use or low inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) use

provides the facility to compare data with other practices both locally and nationally

case finder
find potentially unrecorded or undiagnosed patients
case finder benefits include:

helps identify patients with a missing diagnosis of asthma, ensuring effective intervention

allows practices to determine a more accurate prevalence rate within their population

improves register accuracy by highlighting potential coding issues

helps identify patients who may benefit from review or exclude diagnosis



joint benefits
joint benefits include:

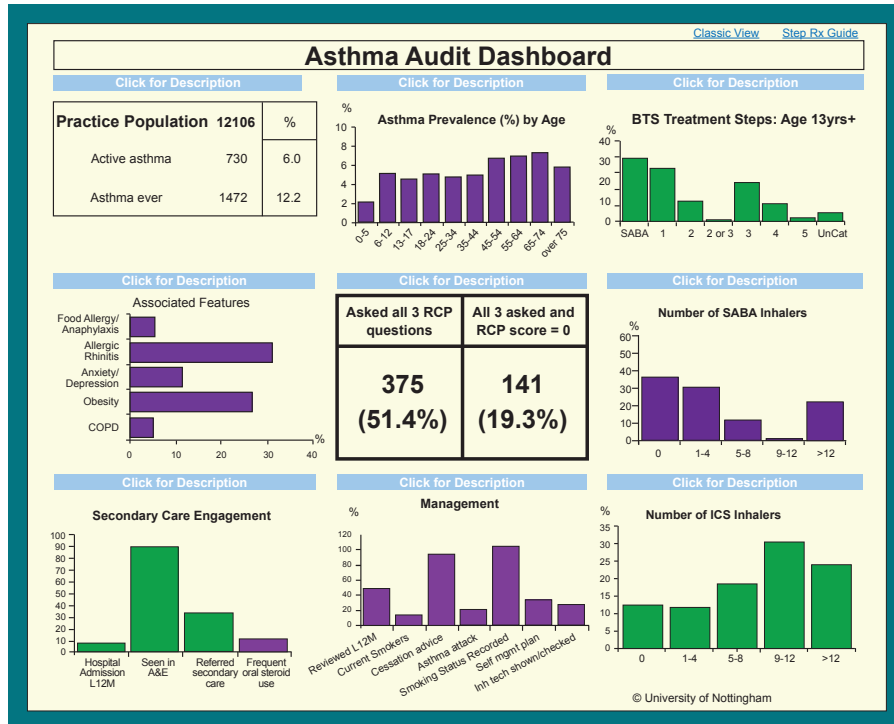
helps to optimise the care and treatment of patients with asthma

contributes to the delivery of the QOF, the NICE Quality Standard for asthma (QS25) and the CCG Outcomes Indicator Set

helps to boost asthma QOF points

Asthma Care management - CHART dashboard summary

The CHART dashboard provides practices with an instant visual snapshot of their clinical data. This allows the following key aspects of asthma management to be evaluated:



Prevalence data

Study up-to-date figures of practice population and prevalence of asthma and active asthma

Secondary care encounters

Review rates of referral or admission to hospital and/or A&E for asthma related illness

Presence of key associated features

Examine prevalence of co-morbidities and factors associated with an increased risk of fatality in asthma patients

BTS/SIGN treatment steps

Classify patients into treatment step, based on their latest medication history

Achievement of the RCP outcome measure

Reveal an indication of asthma patient wellbeing in the practice

Short term reliever inhaler use

Identify patients receiving high numbers of short-acting β_2 agonist (SABA) inhalers who may require a review of asthma control

Long term preventer inhaler use

Identify patients receiving low numbers of inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) inhalers. Potentially highlighting patients with poor preventer therapy compliance

Key asthma management indicators

Monitor care provision through key aspects, such as annual review rates, inhaler technique checks and dissemination of self-management plans

Five key actions following use of the Asthma Care tool

Review any patients identified as potentially missing a diagnosis of asthma (case finder) in order to confirm or exclude a diagnosis

Review patients who have received a prescription for a long-acting β_2 agonist (LABA) in the last six months without an inhaled corticosteroid (pre-set filter 1)

Review patients receiving high numbers of prescriptions for short-acting β_2 agonist (SABA) inhalers as they may be experiencing poor asthmatic control (pre-set filter 2)

Review patients identified as receiving more than three courses of oral steroids in the last year - pre-set filter 3.

Review patients for treatment efficacy in line with BTS/SIGN guidance. Refer for specialist assessment if needed

Upload data to CHART Online

Repeated uploads allow practices to track improvements in care. Practices can anonymously benchmark themselves against others both locally and nationally and plan improvements accordingly. CCGs can monitor care provision at an aggregated level within their locality

PRIMIS quality improvement tools are designed to signpost practices to patients who may be of interest and/or concern and not to replace clinical decision making.

PRIMIS

The Asthma Care quality improvement tool is available free to end users registered as PRIMIS Hub members. Hub membership is free to join and provides access to CHART and several free-to-use quality improvement tools, and access to purchase annual licences for specialist quality improvement tools. Sign up for free Hub membership at:

nottingham.ac.uk/primis/joinus

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