

Suggested process for referral: for children aged 5-15 years who have been prescribed a pMDI for asthma without a spacer and/or patients aged 5 years and above who do not have a Personalised Asthma Action Plan (PAAP)

The pharmacy receives a prescription for a patient for a medicine or inhaler that can be used for asthma.

How old is the patient?

Under 5 years

Patient falls outside the quality criterion.

Between 5-15 yrs

Have they been prescribed a pressurised metered dose inhaler (pMDI)?

Yes

No

Check the patient's PMR to see if the patient has been prescribed a spacer device on a previous occasion and if so, if the spacer device is suitable for the pMDI being prescribed.

Ask the patient or their parent/guardian if they know which condition the medicine/inhaler is being prescribed for (if the patient or their parent/guardian is calling back to collect the prescription, highlight on the bagged-up medicines that the pharmacist/other staff member would like to speak to them following your normal method to do this. If the patient is a delivery patient, telephone the patient or parent/guardian).

Other indication

If the patient is using an inhaler/medicine for an indication which is not asthma, they fall outside the quality criterion.

Asthma

Not known

If the patient or their parent/guardian does not know why they are using their inhaler or medicine, try to contact the patient's GP practice to confirm the indication.

Child aged 5 -15 years prescribed a pMDI

Child aged 5-15 yrs prescribed a non-pMDI or patient aged 16 years or over

Ask the patient or their parent/guardian if a spacer device is being used with the inhaler.

Ask if the patient has a PAAP (usually this would have been created by their GP or asthma nurse).

Discuss the reasons why a spacer may be suitable and why the patient should have a PAAP with the patient or their parent/guardian and check their understanding of how to use their medicines/inhaler(s) and spacer device (if previously prescribed).

Consider providing an inhaler technique check, catch-up New Medicine Service (NMS) or NMS (if appropriate) and other support as required.

If the patient is not using a spacer device (and it would be appropriate for them to do so) and/or does not have a PAAP, advise the patient that they should see their GP or asthma nurse to obtain a spacer device and/or a PAAP. Seek verbal consent to refer the patient to their GP or asthma nurse.

If consent is obtained, send a referral form to the GP practice using the method previously agreed with the GP practice and indicate the reason for referral, i.e. to prescribe a spacer, create a PAAP, or both.

Complete the data collection form and make a record on the patient's PMR detailing the referral.