

Suggested process for referring patients for an asthma review: for patients who have had three or more short-acting bronchodilator inhalers dispensed without any corticosteroid inhaler within a six-month period

The pharmacy receives a prescription for a short-acting bronchodilator inhaler, but the patient has not been prescribed a corticosteroid inhaler.



Check the patient's Patient Medication Record (PMR) to see how many short-acting bronchodilator inhalers the patient has received in the last six months and if they have received a corticosteroid inhaler in this period.



If the patient has received three or more short-acting bronchodilator inhalers in the last six months without a corticosteroid inhaler, speak to the patient to confirm how they are using the short-acting bronchodilator inhalers and what condition they have.



COPD or other indication

If the patient has COPD or a different indication, they fall outside the quality criterion.



Asthma



Not known

If the patient does not know why they are using their inhalers try to contact the patient's GP practice to confirm the indication.

Discuss the issue with the patient and check their understanding of how to use their short-acting bronchodilator inhaler. Consider providing an inhaler technique check and other support as required.



If the patient is calling back to collect their prescription, highlight on the bagged-up medicines that the pharmacist would like to speak to the patient following your normal method to do this. If the patient is a delivery patient, telephone the patient.



Advise the patient that they should see a clinician at their GP practice for a review of their inhalers. Seek verbal consent to refer patient to their GP practice.



If consent is obtained, send a referral form to the GP practice using the method previously agreed with the GP practice.



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