NRAP Good Practice Repository – Adult asthma
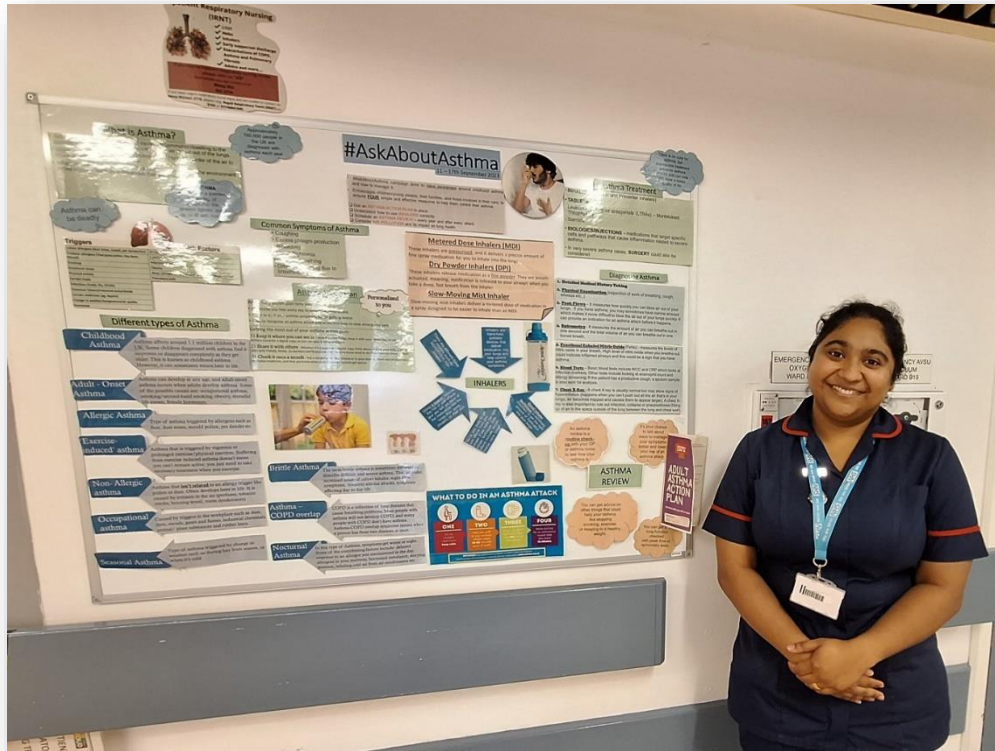

Warrington District General Hospital

Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
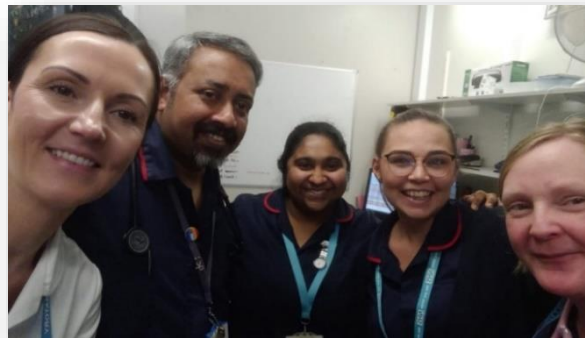
KPI 5:
Tobacco dependency addressed

Warrington District General Hospital achieved:
97.9% - 2023/24*

Our processes to achieve good practice in KPI 5:

Here at Warrington and Halton Foundation Trust (WHHFT), we have embedded a number of opportunities to improve identification and support for current smokers, in a range of clinical encounters.

- All patients arriving in the Emergency Department (ED) have smoking status addressed as part of the clerking bundle. Since July 2023, WHHFT have had a tobacco dependency advisor in post, who receives daily updates of all smokers admitted within the previous 24 hours. These patients are all reviewed, with input being offered on an 'opt out' rather than 'opt in' basis.

- Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) availability and provision has also been reviewed and increased in key areas, to improve timeliness of provision, with updates to the hospital formulary to include a wider range of therapies to support cessation.

- WHHFT have a dedicated inpatient respiratory team onsite. On weekdays, specialist respiratory nurses virtually review every admission from the previous 24 hours (full weekends admissions on a Monday) listing all patients admitted as a result of their chronic respiratory condition. This rudimentary virtual trawl is based upon recognition of key symptoms and indicators, utilising electronic ED overviews or acute areas general patient handovers, utilising initial clinician reviews, further highlighting appropriate patients for face-to-face review in a timely manner.

- We also have a visibility in key areas including ED and acute respiratory wards, offering prompt advice and review, taking referrals verbally and electronically reducing the risk of appropriate patient being 'missed'. We have found this is the most successful and equitable way to highlight appropriate patients, following a number of trials of alternative routes of referral. Generally, highlighted patients are offered same day review, completed in any acute area within the Trust, including ED, admissions units and wards. All respiratory nurse assessments include discussion about smoking status and advice and support is offered at every opportunity.

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- Following assessment by a respiratory nurse specialist, the review is documented electronically, with current documentation templates adapted to include review details, audit data prospectively, NICE guidelines, such as NG80, British Thoracic Society asthma discharge bundle information (2023), thus reducing duplication and ensuring all good practice points are addressed. Templates are updated regularly to include updates to datasets. Ensuring that the opportunity for structured smoking cessation discussions are embedded at multiple clinician assessments, further increases the ability to identify and support behaviour change.

- Following data collection, our team assistant inputs collected data directly from electronic documentation, with gaps checked with clinical staff as required. This is a new role developed within the respiratory team, which is part clinical, part administration and has streamlined the previous process, whereby, review was completed by respiratory nurse, documented electronically as per Trust guidelines, with data collection then completed on a hard copy, which was then transferred to the Clinical Audit Department to input.

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