

1.9 Asthma patients discharged from the emergency department in Ireland: an unmet need?

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Introduction: Appropriate ED management of asthma including discharge planning is critical. The BTS/ITS have an asthma discharge bundle to improve outcomes. The aim of this audit was to assess patients discharge plans from ED and determine if patients receive suboptimal follow up.

Methods: A retrospective audit of 145 patient visits who attended ED with a diagnosis of an asthma exacerbation from 1/10/2020 to 30/9/2021 in a tertiary referral centre in the west of Ireland.

Results: Data was collected on 99 patients from 145 visits, with 27 patients having >1 visit with an exacerbation of asthma. A total of 106 patients were discharged from ED. Four patients received inhaler technique education, one received peak flow diary, five patients received an asthma action plan, no patients received trigger avoidance advice. Fifty-five patients were discharged with oral corticosteroids, thirty-six with inhaled corticosteroids and sixty-four with inhaled SABA. Seven patients were referred to the respiratory service, fifty-three discharged to GP, with forty-five who received no follow up.Conclusion: Adherence with the asthma discharge bundle is poor. We have identified a need for asthma patients that could receive specialist review after ED discharge. We are re-designing the asthma ED pathway to reflect this need.

References

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