

1.14 Pathway utilization in the Management of Asthma

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Asthma is the most common chronic respiratory disease in Ireland, resulting in a significant number of presentations to the Emergency Department annually with episodic exacerbations of asthma that could potentially be life threatening. Asthma also imposes a significant burden on health care systems, society and the family. A Respiratory Care Pathway 'The Management of Acute Asthma' is currently employed within the

Emergency Department in order to enhance the quality of care across the continuum in line with international evidence based best practice. A retrospective chart audit was conducted to measure concordance with the care pathway.

Analysis of the results indicated that the asthma pathway was oftentimes incomplete or even in some cases not utilized.

In response to these findings a review and redesign of the care pathway was undertaken and comprehensive education provided to all stakeholders involved in the implementation and utilization of the care pathway.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare