

1.17 Challenges in determining suitability for home self-administration of asthma biologic therapies

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Home administration of targeted asthma biologics has recently become an option for patients with severe I15 mediated asthma, allowing patients greater independence in the management of their disease and more convenience around work, study and travel. Organisational gains include time and cost savings. In 2022 a directive was issued by the HSE stating that from the third dose patients should be self-administering at home. Fundamentally as experienced Clinical Nurse Specialist's (CNS) we recognised that despite this directive not all patients would be ready within the time frame indicated, or at all. In addition to the assessment for, management, co-ordination and administration of asthma biologic therapies the respiratory CNS service in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital is responsible for determining suitability for home administration, a process requiring sound clinical judgement. Challenges identified by our service in determining suitability included poor health literacy, low executive function, lack of commitment to treatment and overall suboptimal adherence to baseline treatment plans. Initially interest in the concept of home administration was high. However, not all patients met the criteria due to one or multiple challenges identified. Conversely a number of patients were initially reluctant and lacked confidence in their ability to self-administer therapy. However, the majority overcame this fear and successfully transitioned to home self-administration with good CNS-led support, education and training. ***Conflict of Interest: None to declare***