

1.20 Implementation of an Asthma QI project in Galway University Hospital

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Following a review of all patients with an asthma exacerbation who visited the emergency department (ED) and Acute Medical Unit (AMU) at GUH, we identified that 50% of the patients received no follow up care from their GP also, they were not referred to the respiratory team. A review of GUH's asthma discharge care programme was required. A Quality Improvement (QI) project was carried out. It identified a number of key areas for improvement, including personalised asthma action plans, smoking cessation advice, minimising aeroallergen exposure, inhaler therapy and technique education. An Asthma Proforma was also devised to assist the review of asthma patients. Identification and referral of patients was a key component of the QI project.

All patients discharged from the ED/AMU who met the inclusion/exclusion criteria received an asthma education pack on discharge. A virtual consultation one-week post discharge with an ANP/CNSp, with an asthma education and self-management care plan was implemented. All additional investigations including PFTs/FeNo and bloods were performed prior to their face to face review. On review in the Respiratory clinic their asthma self-management care plan was reviewed and if patients were stable they were discharged from clinic.