

1.21 Has Anyone Checked Your Inhaler Technique? A Safe Asthma Discharge Care Pathway (SADCP) Clinic Quality Improvement Project

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The National Review of Asthma Deaths (2104) reported that, in children and adults who died with asthma, few had documentation of their inhaler technique.¹ As part of a quality improvement project to implement a Safe Asthma Discharge Care Pathway (SADCP), we assessed documentation of newly referred patients to the nurse-led asthma clinic from the Emergency Department to determine the frequency of documentation of inhaler education. A SADCP was developed as a standard record of asthma care following stakeholder consultation and expert consensus. Data was gathered retrospectively from Emergency Department referrals pre-implementation. New referrals to the clinic were then assessed for completed documentation post implementation. Our results include a total of 38 newly referred patients. In 24 patient records (63%) there was no documentation of inhaler technique. In 14 patient records (36%) had documentation included, of which 12 (31%) had complete and 2 (5%) had incomplete documentation. Post referral there was a significant improvement with 100% of new referrals having correct documentation. Going forward, the SADCP will be integral to ensuring documentation of many aspects of asthma care including inhaler technique. Introduction of a SADCP has optimised written documentation of inhaler technique education to help improve paediatric asthma care.

1. Royal College of Physicians. Why asthma still kills: The National Review of Asthma Deaths (NRAD) 2014

Conflict of Interest: None to declare