

New BTS/NICE/SIGN Asthma Guidelines from November 2024

Health care professionals now have a new asthma guideline based on the latest research, which contains changes which will hopefully improve the lives of patients living with asthma.

People over 16 years old with a history suggestive of asthma will be asked, to book in for a blood test, breathing tests which include a FeNO level, spirometry testing. Peak flow readings may be requested.

The new asthma guidelines recommend salbutamol/ventolin/salamol inhaler free pathways to reduce the risks associated with salbutamol overuse. Salbutamol overuse is associated with increased risk of asthma attack, hospitalisation and sadly even death.

Therefore, treatment options for all patients aged 12 years or over with newly diagnosed asthma recommends using combination inhalers which treats airway inflammation and symptoms of asthma.

The surgery may contact you to discuss your inhalers, especially if you are using a lot of salbutamol inhaler, otherwise this will be discussed in your annual asthma review.

New recall system for Chronic disease monitoring

We refer to our communication last month regarding our system changes for reviews – please note that patients are being called in during their birthday month, meaning that appointments may be different to patient's previous recall times. We would like to thank you for your patience during the next few weeks whilst we implement the changes.

Staff updates

We are currently recruiting for reception staff due to staff retirements.

We are also in the process of training more staff to help with secretarial work when our secretaries are absent, due to a much increased workload in this department over the last couple of years.

Covid Spring boosters

We are currently inviting eligible patients to book for their spring booster at clinics being held at the surgery. Please contact reception to book an appointment if you have not received an invite yet and are aged 75 and over; or are under 75 and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or current treatment such as chemotherapy.

Did not attend

Over the last month, 41 patients have not attended their appointment, meaning that over 13 hours of appointment time has been lost, which could have been offered to another patient. Patients can cancel appointments via the NHS app, our surgery website, or by contacting reception. We would like to thank patients who have contacted us to cancel appointments if not needed, as this number is a slight improvement.

