**Referral Pathway for Inhaler Patient**

**Do you know what your inhalers are for?**

**Good ← Ask patient to demonstrate inhaler technique → Poor**

**↓**

**Counsel patient on Inhaler Technique**

**Refer to Inhaler Technique Assessment Tool by Keith Thompson.**

**Consider the use of a spacer device, Haleraid® and suitability of the inhaler for the patient**

**Improvement ←**

**NOTE: If patient is on high dose ICS - MAY require Step Down in therapy.**

**Please consult Medical team prior to discharge and note on Discharge Summary.**

**↓**

**Still concern with inhaler technique**

**↓**

**Refer to CCG Pharmacy team.**

**Refer to Asthma/COPD Guidelines for further information.**

**This pathway demonstrates suggested referrals for patients with inhaler technique concerns. If the referrer has other concerns with regards to the patient’s respiratory medicines please call the CCG Pharmacy team to discuss suitability of referral on 02036681331.**

**Asthma**

**Questions to ask Asthma Patient**

* **Do you smoke? If yes, encourage to stop and provide patient with name and number of smoking cessation service near their home or place of work. (See List of Accredited Smoking Cessation Advisors and contact details).**

**Alternatively the patient can call 0800 019 8570**

* **Ask the patient if he/she would like details of patient support organisation to get more information on how to manage asthma. If so direct to Asthma UK. Provide patient with Asthma UK card**

[**http://www.asthma.org.uk/**](http://www.asthma.org.uk/)

**02077864900**

**Things to consider**

* **Is the patient on a high dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)? Provide patient with ICS Patient Safety Card if he/she does not have one, on liaison with the medical team. Advise patient that it may be reviewed in Primary care.**
* **Did the patient use a rescue pack prior to admission? Does it need to be replaced on discharge?**

**COPD**

**Questions to ask COPD Patient**

* **Do you smoke? If yes, encourage to stop and provide patient with name and number of smoking cessation service near their home or place of work. (See List of Accredited Smoking Cessation Advisors and contact details).**

**Alternatively the patient can call 0800 019 8570**

* **Have you had your annual flu jab? If not, signpost to community Pharmacist or GP (available November to February).**
* **Do you have your pneumococcal vaccination every 5 years? If not, signpost to GP.**
* **Ask the patient if he/she would like details of local patient support group to support patients with serious breathing problems e.g. Breathe Easy Croydon.**

[**http://becroydon.btck.co.uk/**](http://becroydon.btck.co.uk/)

**Things to Consider**

* **Osteoporosis prophylaxis for patients requiring frequent oral corticosteroids.**
* **PPI cover for patients’ on maintenance dose of steroid/duration of step down course of steroids.**
* **Is the patient on a high dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)? Provide patient with ICS Patient Safety Card if he/she does not have one, on liaison with the medical team. Advise patient that it may be reviewed in Primary care.**
* **Did the patient use a rescue pack prior to admission? Does it need to be replaced on discharge?**