

**Driving Asthma Improvements in South Yorkshire**  
**Comms re:**  
**Review of patients in Primary Care**

**Background:**

Continuing the work that was initiated by QOF and IIF, NHS South Yorkshire ICB, in conjunction with AstraZeneca, would like to offer your practice the opportunity to take part in the Driving Asthma Improvements in South Yorkshire (DAISY) project. The project's purpose is to improve asthma outcomes for adult asthma patients by reducing over-reliance on short-acting beta-agonists (SABA), and where appropriate, increase the use of Maintenance and Reliever therapy (MART)/ or Anti-Inflammatory Reliever therapy (AIR).

The project has the capacity to undertake pharmacist-led asthma reviews of between 2000 and 2200 eligible patients across approximately 40 practices in South Yorkshire. The target is to reduce the percentage of patients receiving 6 or more SABA within 12 months to less than 20% in participating practices.

While this is a stand-alone project, over-laps exist between it and the local Medicines Optimisation quality and improvement schemes. Some indicators may overlap with work already underway; this will complement the project and support you to achieve the targets set at the beginning of the year.

Via a Joint Working Agreement with the ICB, AstraZeneca will support general practice with non-promotional education and training materials and funding for pharmacists from Interface Clinical Services to carry out asthma reviews on patients.

Access to the **Sentinel Plus resource** is now available [here](#) (password: **Sentinelplus083**). This contains a suite of resources to support us reach a [GINA](#)-based integrated care system, we welcome you to access this tool at your convenience.

South Yorkshire ICB's Lead Respiratory Pharmacist, Deb Leese, is involved in the project and can provide advice and guidance to practices if required.

We are writing to inform you that DAISY will be running from November 2024 to October 2025 and we would like to invite you to participate.

**The Project Aims** are to:

- Reduce the proportion of patients in participating practice that receive 6 or more SABA in 12 months to less than 20%.
- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e through the decreased use of MDI SABA.
- Increased uptake of AIR and MART regimes
- 80% reduction of SABA monotherapy in patients 18+

**The Treatment Protocols** are GINA based with local nuances taken into account. GINA recommends a SABA-free approach to asthma management. These guidelines recommend ICS/LABA (e.g. Symbicort Turbohaler, Fobumix Easyhaler, Fostair NEXThaler) to be used as both a maintenance and reliever medication, as each dose combines the action of a fast-acting LABA to give quick relief of symptoms and dose of ICS, which reduces airway inflammation and prevents deterioration in asthma control.

MART is currently a recommended option in [NICE guidance](#) (2021), with new NICE/BTS guidelines in November 2024 expected to include AIR as the recommended first-line treatment for mild asthma.

Our recommendation is to adopt the [Local Health Economy Asthma Management Framework](#) as this aligns with South Yorkshire asthma guidance, which can be found below:

Barnsley: [barnsley-asthma-guideline.pdf \(barnsleyccg.nhs.uk\)](#)

Doncaster: [Doncaster-and-Bassetlaw-Asthma-Guideline-for-patients-over-18-years-old-V2.1-Nov-2022\\_amended-May-2023.pdf \(doncasterccg.nhs.uk\)](#)

Rotherham: [Asthma Guidelines – Healthy Rotherham \(yourhealthrotherham.co.uk\)](#)

Sheffield: [Sheffield Asthma Guideline.pdf \(sheffieldccg.nhs.uk\)](#)

The aims of the patient review have two purposes:

1. To assess the clinical suitability of a patient for a switch to MART Therapy to help improve their asthma control.
2. Provide a training legacy for primary care staff delivering asthma care through providing an opportunity to take part in some pharmacist-led patient review sessions, to support them to implement the single inhaler MART treatment in future.

#### How:

The funding for the project is provided by AstraZeneca, who have offered funding for approximately 40 practices to take part in this work.

Practices with a high number of patients issued with 6 or more SABA inhalers in the previous 12 months are being asked to participate in DAISY:

The reviews will be conducted by an intermediary organisation called Interface Clinical Services.

Pharmacists from Interface Clinical Services will be contacting every practice to set up an initial discussion meeting. This meeting will go through the:

- Volumes of patients in the practice meeting the above criteria
  - Access needed to patient data & associated Information Governance protocols
  - Timelines for when they will take place
  - Agree a data sharing protocol
- Process for feedback following completion of reviews

***The contracts to engage in the work will be between each GP Practice and Interface Clinical Services.***

#### The Ask:

- **GP Practices:**

We ask your organisation to engage with Interface Clinical Services when they make contact to enable these reviews to take place promptly. As mentioned above, a nominated clinician will need to be identified to review the prescribing recommendations made by the pharmacist and issue a prescription as required, where a change to AIR or MART is agreed upon. You will be able to agree on what actions are to be carried out by the pharmacist e.g., updating a repeat template with the ICS/LABA inhaler and what actions the nominated clinician will take e.g., issuing the prescription. We understand there are immense time and workload pressures on GP practices. This work, once the initial meetings take place, should cause minimal disruption to practice. However, we must also

acknowledge that there *may* be some patients who will need further discussion with a GP due to their unique clinical circumstances. Any follow-up required by the patient will be managed by the practice.

### **Community Pharmacy:**

Please be aware of this programme of work aimed at improving management of poorly controlled Asthma is expected to be based in the following practices:

Shiregreen Medical Centre	Dearne Valley	Morthern Road Surgery	Parkgate Medical Centre
Dove Valley Practice	Harold Street Surgery	Crown street surgery	PCS North Darnall Health Centre
The Tickhill Surgery	Rawmarsh Health Centre	Penistone Group PMS Practice	Royston Group
Hoyland First (Walderslade)	Blyth Road Medical Centre	Burleigh	Southey Green Medical Centre
BHF Brierley	Braithwell Road Surgery	Shakespeare Road PMS	St Ann's Medical Centre
Chapelfield	Brinsworth Medical Centre	Mexborough Health Centre	Swallownest Health Centre
BHF Highgate	Buchanan Road Surgery	White House Surgery	The Grove Medical Practice
Scawsby	Clover City	Conisbrough Group Practice	THE RANSOME PRACTICE
Sharrow Lane Medical Centre	Dr Patel & Partners (Broom Lane)	Huddersfield Road	Thorne Moor Medical Practice (Chestnut House Surgery)
Meadowgreen Health Centre	Garland House	Askern Medical Practice	Thorpe Hesley Surgery
Page Hall Medical Centre	Greasbrough Medical Ctr.	Conisbrough Medical Practice	Woodland Drive
BHF Lundwood	Greenside Surgery	Denaby Medical Practice	Wickersley Medical Practice
Monk Bretton Health Centre Practice	Grimethorpe Surgery	Hollygreen	Duke Medical Centre
BHF Goldthorpe	High Street Surgery	Hoyland Medical Practice	Hill Brow
White Rose / Rose Tree Pms Practice	Lundwood Medical Centre Pms Practice	The Edlington Practice	ASA Medical Group
Wombwell Medical Centre Practice	Magna Group Practice	The Kakoty Practice	The Mathews Practice Belgrave
Clover Group Practice	Manor and Park Group Practice	Tinsley Surgery/The Medical Centre	Devonshire Green Medical Centre
Woodstock Bower Group Practice	Norwood Medical Centre	Lakeside	Dinnington Group Practice
Victoria Medical Centre Pms Practice	The Stag Medical Centre		

Please be mindful of potential changes to patient medicines in these areas when managing stock levels of inhalers listed on your local Adult Asthma guidelines. Some patients may benefit from a refresher in inhaler technique counselling following a consultation with the pharmacist.

- **Secondary Care:**

You may receive communications/ enquiries or come across patients asking about the review, please make your teams aware of the work being conducted and offer reassurance to patients where they have any queries.

#### Further questions

Should you have any further questions regarding this work, please contact your Medicines Optimisation Team PCN link member or email [syicb-sheffield.syicb.medsopt1@nhs.net](mailto:syicb-sheffield.syicb.medsopt1@nhs.net) marking the email as FAO Sam Humphries / Deb Leese.

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