SUMMARY

Asthma clinicians and patient across Hull have worked collaboratively with Pharmaceutical Industry partners to develop and implement the Sentinel Project. The Sentinel project aims to improve asthma outcomes for patients alongside reducing the environmental impact associated with metered dose inhalers.

The project is in the early stages of implementation. Initial data shows promising results with one Primary Care Network (PCN) reducing their previously high short acting beta-2 agonist (SABA) use to below the national average. This has also resulted in contributing to an offset of over 195,000 kg eCO2 emissions.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

➢ To improve asthma outcomes for adult asthma patients in primary care by:
  • Reducing the number of SABA inhalers issued for asthmatics
  • Reducing the proportion of SABA inhalers prescribed
  • Increase adoption of maintenance and reliever therapy (MART) guidelines recommending, where appropriate, dry powder inhalers for patients
  • Reduce asthma related emergency attendances and hospitalisation

➢ To reduce the environmental impact of adult asthma reducing the carbon footprint associated with metered dose inhalers by adoption of MART guidelines

Reasons for implementing your initiative

In the UK there are over 4 million adults with asthma and health outcomes have stagnated for decades, they are among the worst in Europe. Nationally, over 15 million SABA inhalers are prescribed a year, of which 38% are prescribed to patients who are over-reliant (three or more a year). SABA over-reliance is a contributor to poorer health outcomes and is known to cause twice as many asthma attacks compared to those who are not over reliant, regardless of their asthma severity. Salbutamol inhalers account for 70% of the total carbon footprint of all inhalers in the UK. Hull and East Riding is a region with approximately 40,000 asthma patients and ranked in the bottom 10% for asthma outcomes in the UK.
By engaging primary care clinicians and supporting education in the review and optimisation of asthma patients, and by reducing SABA inhaler use, it is possible to improve management of a patient’s condition and drastically reduce the CO2 emissions generated.

Supporting information: https://hullasthma.co.uk/

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