



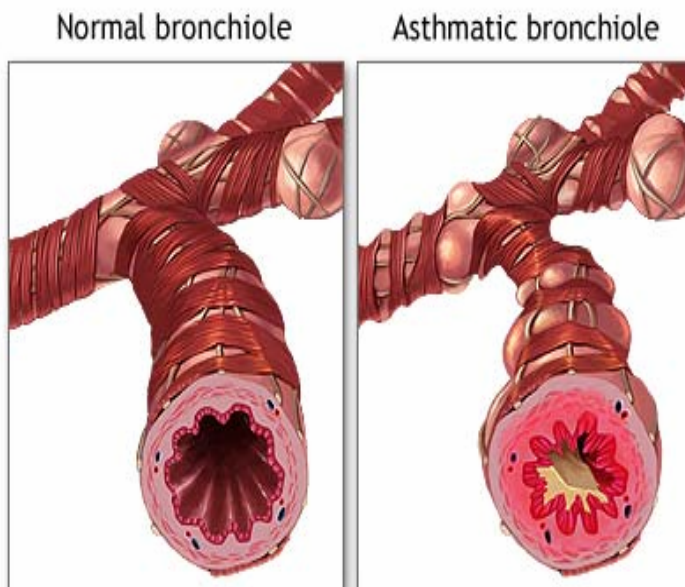
Adult Asthma

Background.

Asthmatics frequently present to emergency departments in the UK.

The severity of their acute illness can vary from mild symptoms through to life-threatening episodes of bronchospasm. Rapid assessment and treatment is essential for optimal care of these patients. Initial assessment includes the measurement of peak flow rates, respiratory rate and oxygen saturations. Subsequent management depends on the severity of the initial presentation.

The management of acute asthma in adults is a national audit commissioned by the HealthCare Commission.



Special points of interest:

- Acute asthma can be a life-threatening condition.
- The mortality from asthma is not falling despite medical interventions.
- Management of acute asthma remains controversial.

Methods

Retrospective audit

Sample: 30-50 Emergency Department patient records

Criteria

Inclusions: Patients (16 years or over) with asthma or SOB suspected as their primary condition.

Exclusions: Patients aged under 16 OR patients presenting with another medical condition.

Please ensure you register the audit with your Trust Clinical Audit Department

Notes can be obtained by computer search of the ED database. The coding system on the back of the ED cards should be searched using the terms:

The search should extend over a sufficient period to include the 30 most recent obtainable events as a minimum. Contact the ED information manager to obtain a list of case notes matching these criteria.

Cards may only be physically kept in the department for a couple of weeks and then sent for scanning and archiving electronically. This can take up to 4 weeks.

Once you have the cards for the relevant patients then you need to record the data in an accessible way. This should be entered into the excel spreadsheet that contains all the relevant cells and formulae. For some of the items on the spreadsheet you may want to include a number of options. To maintain a consistency between rolling audits we ask that you stick to the approved list of criteria.

Work plan

Week 1-2, background reading and ordering case notes

Week 3-4, accessing records and entering data onto spreadsheet

Week 5-6, preparing the Powerpoint presentation of your findings

Presentation of findings

The data should be collated and then presented using the associated PowerPoint presentation with the new data entered.

Data **MUST** then be uploaded onto www.stemlyns.org.uk/admin as instructed. Please obtain the username and password from your audit lead.

Further Information contact:



How to upload the audit data

- www.stemlyns.org/admin
- Username and Password
- Select Appropriate Audit Title
- Select EDIT RESULTS next to appropriate date
- Enter results and CONTINUE
- FINISH
- LOG OUT

Traffic lights within 5% of target  within 6-15%  within 16%+ 

Criteria	Standard (%)	Standard achieved Locally (%)	Standard Achieved Region-ally (%)	Standard Met?	Status
Oxygen given on arrival	100				
Peak flow measured on arrival	100				
Respiratory rate measured on arrival	100				
Oxygen sat measured on arrival	100				
B agonists are given to moderate/severe cases within 10 mins of arrival, if appropriate	100				
IV magnesium 1.2-2.0g over 20 mins if life threatening and not responding within 15 mins of arrival	100				
Moderate asthma (PFR 50/70%) patients who are discharged are given oral prednisolone 40-50mg for 5 days	100				
Patients discharged following steroid administration followed up appropriately	100				





Adult Asthma

Clinical scenario

Asthmatics frequently present to emergency departments in the UK.

Rapid assessment and treatment is essential for optimal care of these patients. Subsequent management depends on the severity of the initial presentation.

Audit question

Is acute asthma managed appropriately according to best practice guidelines

Method

Retrospective audit of 30-50 Emergency Department patient records

Inclusions: Patients (16 years or over) with asthma or SOB suspected as their primary condition.

Exclusions: Patients aged under 16 OR patients presenting with another medical condition.

Results

Date	Patients	Measured	Results	Standard	Regional avg.
1st August 2007	Patients attending the ED with acute asthma	Management of patient according to criteria	Oxygen given on arrival	100 %	-
			Peak flow measured on arrival	100 %	-
			Respiratory rate measured on arrival	100 %	-
			Oxygen sat measured on arrival	100 %	-
			B agonists are given to moderate/severe cases within 10 mins of arrival, if appropriate	100 %	-
			IV magnesium 1.2-2.0g over 20 mins if life threatening and not responding within 15 mins of arrival	100 %	-
			Moderate asthma (PFR 50/70%) patients who are discharged are given oral prednisolone 40-50mg for 5 days	100 %	-
			Patients discharged following steroid administration followed up appropriately	100 %	-

Comment

To be completed

Audit Bottom Line

To be completed