

TARGETED ASTHMA REVIEWS



In order to facilitate rapid and sustained change in practice with the aim of improving outcomes for asthma patients, SENTINEL Plus recommends a focused period of asthma reviews for patients with frequent SABA use.

Depending on capacity within practices, it is recommended to initially prioritise asthma patients with highest SABA use first (e.g. ≥ 6 SABA canisters issued in the past year), while aiming to achieve review for all those issued ≥ 3 SABA inhalers/year over time.

As the level of SABA over-use reduces in your practice, this could become a rolling programme, running searches at set intervals and inviting patients over-using SABA for review.

It is recommended that all clinicians undertaking asthma reviews are familiar with the SENTINEL Plus education materials to ensure their alignment with the SENTINEL Plus principles, the knowledge and skills to support delivery of guideline recommendations, and familiarity with the Prescribing Gold Standards.

A PROPOSED MODEL FOR ASTHMA REVIEWS IS SET-OUT BELOW:

1. Electronic health record search to identify adult asthma patients that have received 6 or more SABA inhalers (3 or more SABA inhalers if capacity allows) in the past year.
2. Identified patients contacted and offered an appointment for asthma review
3. Face-to-face or virtual asthma reviews should be undertaken in accordance with the SENTINEL Plus principles, Prescribing Gold Standards, and guideline recommendations.¹ Key elements to include in the review could include triggers, inhaler technique, adherence and a personalised asthma action plan.
4. Future follow-up and support should be provided for patients that have their treatment changed. There are a range of options available for follow up and the most appropriate option(s) will depend on local capacity and available services.
 - o Follow up can be arranged with the practice team undertaking the initial asthma review but consideration should be given to capacity.
 - o Community pharmacies provide a New Medicine Service to support patients that are started on a medicine for the first time to treat a long-term condition. If this service is used to support a change in asthma treatment through SENTINEL Plus, it is advisable to ensure that participating

pharmacists are made aware of the sentinel plus quality improvement framework and the sentinel plus website to access educational materials.

5. Patients that continue to exacerbate despite optimal management should be considered for referral to the local secondary care or Severe Asthma Service for review and management as per guideline recommendations.¹

It is recommended that a lead clinician is identified to provide support and mentorship for clinicians undertaking asthma reviews. Identifying and addressing SABA over-reliance requires a change in behaviours for both healthcare professionals and asthma patients, both of whom require the necessary knowledge, understanding and support to ensure that they have confidence in the process. An experienced local clinician can help to facilitate this.

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