

Assessment of a child after an unscheduled visit for asthma

# Context

* Emergency prescription of oral corticosteroids
* Unscheduled attendance in primary or secondary care
* Admission to hospital, including HDU and PICU

# Overarching questions

* Could the unscheduled visit have been avoided - were warning signs missed?
* numbers of salbutamol prescriptions
* numbers of ICS prescriptions
* last review asthma review
* Has inhaler technique been reviewed recently
* Was the asthma attack managed according to the asthma plan
* Time interval between unscheduled visit and notification to practice, and between notification and review visit (audit points)

# Detailed review

1. What triggered the attack? Could the trigger have been avoided?
2. Is the child able to use the medication delivery device?
3. What has been recent uptake of (a) preventer and (b) reliever medication
4. Were reliever medications and spacer to hand?
5. What bronchodilator was used and for how long?
6. Was the asthma plan followed? Should it be changed?
7. How many unscheduled visits to GP, A&E etc preceded the final resolution of exacerbation and what action was or was not taken at each?