***Financial impact of asthma in London***

Asthma has a significant impact on NHS spending; it was estimated to cost the NHS £1 billion in 2004.[[1]](#footnote-1) In comparison the cost of COPD and asthma in Europe is over £200 billion Euros.[[2]](#footnote-2) The cost of treating a child with asthma is higher than the cost per adult.[[3]](#footnote-3) Based on findings from a study by Hoskins et al (2000), [[4]](#footnote-4) a patient who experiences an acute asthma attack is likely to cost 3.5 times that of a patient who does not.[[5]](#footnote-5) This could come down by a reduction in the length of stay or better still preventing the exacerbation in the first place.[[6]](#footnote-6)

The costs of emergency admissions for asthma for each CCG in London are listed in Appendix A below.

The current amount spent by CCGs ranges from over **£232,362** in Croydon compared with **£24,570** in Kensington and Chelsea.

The current cost of emergency admissions per 100,000 population based on £702 PBR rate equates to London spending **£4,600,200 per year.**

If 60% of child emergency admissions for asthma were prevented, this would mean asthma admissions would cost London **£1,840,082** amounting to around **£2,760,124 million in savings across London**.

If CCGs were able to achieve the 75% reduction this would be even greater at around **£3,450,154 savings.**

If adult asthma was included in the plans there would be even greater returns.

In addition, the combined prescribing costs for bronchodilators and corticosteroids alone, in children and adults, is £1,031,720,912 in England and **£105,702,558.87** in London. It is possible there would be a slight rise in drug costs as patients were prescribed more appropriately as found in the Finnish study[[7]](#footnote-7) . Between 30% and 50% of prescribed medicines for long-term conditions are not taken as recommended. We need to make sure our children are receiving support to take their medicines so they receive the health benefits and the NHS gets value for money from those drugs dispensed.

These costs include diagnosis, acute and primary care, and medications, but there are significant indirect costs, beyond healthcare, to the wider economy:

* A child with poorly controlled asthma is three times more likely to take time off school than a child whose condition is well controlled.
* Poor school attendance is likely to have a detrimental effect on emotional wellbeing and educational attainment.
* A carer is four times more likely to take time off work, with a further effect on their own productivity.

**Appendix A**



**Table A Number and cost of emergency admissions for asthma for children aged 0-18 - 2013/14 and 2014/15**

**a Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre (February 2016, based on number of patients registered at a GP Practice**

**b 2014/15 Hospital Episode Statistics**

**c Based on PBR rate of £702 per emergency admission**

1. NHs, Asthma UK, BTS, PCRS, PCC (2012) *Designing and commissioning services for adults with asthma good practice guide* `(Estimated from National Asthma Audit by National Asthma Campaign 1999/2000) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. European Respiratory Society (2014) European Lung White book <http://www.erswhitebook.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Asthma UK ( 2010) [Memorandum submitted by Asthma UK (AQ 29)](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=5&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CDYQFjAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.publications.parliament.uk%2Fpa%2Fcm200910%2Fcmselect%2Fcmenvaud%2Fmemo%2Fairquality%2Fuc2902.htm&ei=pU82VLDkL4yM7AbcuoC4Bg&usg=AFQjCNEEj6HILki9ls3wJs8GtuJG89JGvg&sig2=ypEHAPgrQUCJS0v5N18OkQ)  to Environmental Audit Committee <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmenvaud/229/229we26.htm>,, London [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Hoskins et al (2000) <http://europepmc.org/backend/ptpmcrender.fcgi?accid=PMC1745605&blobtype=pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Calculated from estimated prevalence of treated asthma in National Asthma Campaign 2001 Out in the Open: a true picture of asthma in the United Kingdom today. Asthma J 6 (suppl), and unpublished data from Hoskins G, McCowan C, Neville RG et al 2000 Risk factors and costs associated with an asthma attack. Thorax 55:19-24 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Asthma UK *News centre facts* [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. T Haahtela, et al (2006) A 10 year asthma programme in Finland: major change for the better Thorax. 61(8): 663–670 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)