

Hello and welcome to the World Asthma Day edition of the London Children and Young People's Asthma Newsletter. A lot has happened since our inaugural bulletin back in December; we hope you have all been keeping well over the lockdown and are enjoying re-emergence now that spring is here. This World Asthma Day we are focussing on developments in CYP asthma that have the potential to improve care of our asthmatic children significantly – from a campaign to encourage good inhaler use to better asthma management in schools. We hope you enjoy it.



Oliver, Chris, Georgie & Sara

## International Primary Care Respiratory Group conference

Colleagues from London are delighted to be presenting at the IPCRG conference this week – we should have been in Dublin but – like everyone else – we'll be at our computers in the kitchen. A plenary session on *Childhood asthma: Addressing problems across a large city*, chaired by Oliver Anglin and including presentations from Sara Nelson, Mark Levy and Richard Iles, will take place on Thursday 6 May. A poster on the impact of #AskAboutAsthma has also been accepted.

There is an excellent agenda and registration is still open – go to <http://www.ipcrq2021.org/home> for more details.

## Launch of the #RightInhalerImage campaign

Viv Marsh from the Dudley Respiratory Group, Olive Fulton (Patient Co-Chair for the Severe Heterogeneous Asthma Research collaboration, Patient-centred - SHARP) and our own Sara Nelson, together with nurses, GPs, paediatricians, pharmacists and patients from across the country, are leading a campaign to stop the use of dangerous images depicting children (and adults) using inhalers incorrectly. The support for this campaign has been incredible – it's obviously something that infuriates people working in asthma nationwide. Launching today, look out for tweets with the RightInhalerImage hashtag, get in touch with your networks about the campaign and of course please call out any media outlets showing inhalers without spacers or other bad practice. Resources can be found here: [#RightInhalerImage campaign - Healthy London Partnership](#).



## New guides for schools

Our updated [London Schools Guide for the care of CYP with Asthma](#) has been launched. This new and improved guide takes account of Covid-19 and includes a number of important changes, making it fit for purpose in 2021.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Parents informed each time a CYP uses their inhaler unless pre-sport as agreed</li> <li>✓ Each CYP to have a school asthma plan - either an individual one esp if complex asthmatic or a school wide asthma plan</li> <li>✓ Strengthened role of Asthma Lead/Champion in checking expiry dates</li> <li>✓ Role of school management to ensure asthma policy is read and understood by all staff</li> <li>✓ School role of encouraging parents to seek a clinical review if a child regularly uses their inhaler at school</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Updated to include more triggers within school environment</li> <li>✓ Changes in sharing emergency inhalers and spacers due to Covid-19</li> <li>✓ Staff to bring CYP's inhaler for off site visits</li> <li>✓ Roles and responsibilities outlined</li> <li>✓ Appendices updated to ensure appropriate forms for schools</li> </ul> |
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An updated [Pharmacy Guide on the Supply of Salbutamol to Schools](#) has been published alongside the Schools Guide, to reflect changes in the advice on the supply of salbutamol and Covid-19 implications.

## #AskAboutAsthma 2021

This year's [#AskAboutAsthma campaign](#) is going national! For the first time, we are teaming up with the NHS England and NHS Improvement team to encourage healthcare professionals, and CYP and their families, to address the '3 #AAA asks' – to have a yearly asthma review (at least), an asthma action plan and regular inhaler check. The 2021 campaign will take place in week 38 as usual and we'll use some of the learning from last year's virtual campaign to make this year's better than ever. Please let us know if you'd like to get involved, or have ideas for themes or content to include.

## CYP Asthma Nurse London Network

The Nurses Network is meeting again in June (date tbc) and the focus this time will be on housing, damp and [air quality](#). These wider determinants of lung health come up time and again. This session will aim to provide resources to help those supporting families who are dealing with these issues.

Please get in touch if you would like to join the Network or find out more about it.

## Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch reports on CYP asthma

*Management of chronic asthma in children aged 16 years and under*, a report by HSIB on a near fatal asthma attack in a 5-year-old child, will be launched today (5<sup>th</sup> of May). A webinar to mark the launch will take place at 10 – 11am on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. If you are interested in attending, you can register [here](#).

## Launch of new GINA Asthma Strategy

The 2021 GINA Strategy update is now online at <https://ginasthma.org/reports/>. The Science Committee and the Board of Directors revised the strategy following a rigorous review of recent asthma research. There is a short summary booklet and a teaching slide set available.

COMING

soon

## Home nebuliser letter

After a near miss with a home nebuliser, London Asthma Leadership and Implementation Group members asked for a regional letter about their use. This will be available shortly but, in the meantime, they stated that home nebulisers should only be prescribed by a specialist (respiratory physician or paediatrician) and not by a GP. Under no circumstances should primary care prescribe nebulisers for CYP for the treatment of asthma, even if started by tertiary care.



## Salbutamol weaning position statement

Responding to the wide debate about the use of salbutamol in CYP leaving hospital after an asthma exacerbation, London Asthma Leadership and Implementation Group will issue a position statement on salbutamol weaning in the next month. Watch this space.

Please get in touch if you want more information about anything you find here, or if there is something you would like to see in a future edition – ideas are most welcome. Please contact Chris or Georgie ([Christine.Kirkpatrick@nhs.net](mailto:Christine.Kirkpatrick@nhs.net), [G.Herskovits@nhs.net](mailto:G.Herskovits@nhs.net)). We would love to hear from you.