**Briefing for GP practices: Patients with asthma – the referral process**

**Suggested points to highlight to GP practices about the referral process for patients with asthma (a domain of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme)**

* We want to let you know about the process in our pharmacy for referring patients with asthma.
* The Pharmacy Quality Scheme, previously known as the Quality Payments Scheme, which was introduced from December 2016, is continuing for 2019/20 and community pharmacy contractors are required to meet specific domains as part of the Scheme. One of these focusses around patients with asthma.
* The asthma domain is to show evidence of referral of patients with asthma who have had more than six short acting bronchodilator inhalers dispensed without any corticosteroid inhaler within a six-month period, in addition to patients with asthma who are aged 5-15 years who have not been prescribed a spacer device and/or do not have a personalised asthma action plan (PAAP).
* We continually review our dispensing processes to highlight any patients who fall into the above categories.
* We do not envisage that we will identify many such patients, as we feel that either the GP practice team or ourselves would have identified these patients and appropriate action would already have been taken.
* However, if we do come across any patients, we wanted to make you aware that, with patient consent, we would be referring these patients to the GP practice as they may benefit from an asthma review, a spacer device and/or a PAAP.
* Before a referral is made, we will carry out an inhaler technique check and, if appropriate, a Medicines Use Review. We will notify you on the referral form, if we have carried out either or both. Is there any other information you would like us to provide on the referral form?
* We can send the referral form via **[PharmOutcomes, NHSmail, post, or hand deliver when we collect prescriptions – delete as appropriate].** We would like to ensure you receive the referral form in the most convenient way for the practice, therefore please could you advise how you would like to receive the referrals?
* If you have any questions on this referral process, please do not hesitate to contact **[insert name of pharmacy manager]** on **[insert phone number].** Further information on the Pharmacy Quality Scheme can be found at: [psnc.org.uk/quality](http://www.psnc.org.uk/quality).