**Suggested process for referring patients: for children aged 5-15 years who have been prescribed an inhaled corticosteroid for asthma without a spacer and/or do not have a personalised asthma action plan**

The pharmacy receives a prescription for a patient aged between 5-15 years for an inhaled corticosteroid, but the patient has not been prescribed a spacer device.

Check the patient’s Patient Medication Record (PMR) to see if the patient has been prescribed a spacer device on a previous occasion and if so, if the spacer device is suitable for the corticosteroid inhaler being prescribed.

Ask the patient or their parent/guardian if they know which condition it is being prescribed for:

**Other indication**

If the patient is using a corticosteroid inhaler for an indication which is not asthma, they fall outside the quality criterion.

**Not known**

If the patient or their parent/guardian does not know why they are using their inhaler try to contact the patient’s GP practice to confirm the indication.

**Asthma**

Ask the patient or their parent/guardian if a spacer device is being used with the corticosteroid inhaler, and if the patient has a personalised asthma action plan (PAAP) (usually this would have been created by their GP or asthma nurse).

Discuss the issue with the patient or their parent/guardian and check their understanding of how to use their inhaler(s) and spacer device (if previously prescribed). Consider providing an inhaler technique check, Medicines Use Review (if appropriate) and other support as required.

If the patient or their parent/guardian is calling back to collect the prescription, highlight on the bagged-up medicines that the pharmacist would like to speak to them following your normal method to do this. If the patient is a delivery patient, telephone the patient or parent/guardian.

If the patient is not using a spacer device (and it would be appropriate for them to do so) and/or does not have a PAAP, advise the patient that they should see their GP or asthma nurse to obtain a spacer device and/or a PAAP. Seek verbal consent to refer the patient to their GP or asthma nurse.

If consent is obtained, send a referral form to the GP practice using the method previously agreed with the GP practice and indicate the reason for referral, i.e. to prescribe a spacer, create a PAAP, or both.

Complete the data collection form and make a record on the patient’s PMR detailing the referral.