

Ref. No: 0556  
Date: 04/01/2024  
Subject: Asthma Waiting Times

## REQUEST

1. For children and young people with asthma referred by a GP or other community healthcare professionals, what is the waiting time for their first appointment or assessment by a clinical specialist expert in paediatric asthma?
2. For children and young people with asthma who has suffered an asthma attack and were admitted to hospital through the emergency department or as an emergency referral from a GP or other community healthcare professionals, what is the waiting time for their first appointment or assessment by a clinical specialist expert in paediatric asthma?
3. How many children and young people with asthma are currently patients receiving on-going care through your outpatient system?
4. How many children and young people in your outpatient system are currently using some form of digital patient remote monitoring system prescribed to them by a clinical specialist expert in paediatric asthma?

## RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

1. For children and young people with asthma referred by a GP or other community healthcare professionals, what is the waiting time for their first appointment or assessment by a clinical specialist expert in paediatric asthma?

### St Helens and Knowsley:

All children and young people with asthma who are referred by a GP / other community healthcare professional will have their referral letter triaged by a paediatric consultant when the referral is first sent in. The paediatric consultant then will direct the patient as is clinically appropriate; either into the next available routine outpatient clinic (c. 18 weeks wait from referral to being seen) with a consultant paediatrician or if deemed clinically urgent, will be triaged to go into an urgent clinic appointment in one of our consultant paediatric clinics (c. 4 – 6 weeks from referral to being seen), or if deemed very urgent, the consultant will arrange for the patient to be brought to the Children's Observation Unit for immediate review.

### Southport and Ormskirk:

The healthcare professional requests an asthma appointment via ER-s. The parent or guardian is sent a letter with a telephone number and code to book their appointment. ER-s then allocates them the next routine appointment available up to 18 weeks.

If an appointment is requested as urgent the healthcare professional will contact the Respiratory Consultants Secretary who will then arrange for the patient to attend the Paediatric Assessment Observation Unit within 2 weeks.

- 2. For children and young people with asthma who has suffered an asthma attack and were admitted to hospital through the emergency department or as an emergency referral from a GP or other community healthcare professionals, what is the waiting time for their first appointment or assessment by a clinical specialist expert in paediatric asthma?**

### St Helens and Knowsley:

All children and young people admitted to hospital via the Emergency Department / emergency referral are offered a 48-hour telephone follow up with one of the paediatric respiratory nurses post discharge from hospital. The time frame for further outpatient appointment / review is determined by the consultant of the patient on discharge from hospital dependent on clinical need (e.g. review in 2 months, or 4-6 months, etc). The patient will then be booked accordingly into the consultant's outpatient clinic within the requested time frame.

### Southport and Ormskirk:

Healthcare professional will contact the Consultant of the Week via switchboard to arrange for an urgent appointment through Paediatric Assessment and Observation Unit within 48 hrs. Respiratory Nurse

Specialists hold ward discharge clinics weekly. Childrens Community Nursing Outreach Team can also offer some support if required at home.

**3. How many children and young people with asthma are currently patients receiving on-going care through your outpatient system?**

Unable to provide this information as we do not record patient diagnoses at an outpatient level.

**4. How many children and young people in your outpatient system are currently using some form of digital patient remote monitoring system prescribed to them by a clinical specialist expert in paediatric asthma?**

We are not currently using any digital patient remote monitoring systems at this time, but via our clinical networks are exploring various options that are being trialled nationally for potential use in the future.