

# The children's asthma nursing team and home visits

**This leaflet explains more about the children's asthma nursing team and home visits. If you have any further questions, please speak to a member of the team.**

## What is the children's asthma nursing team?

The children's asthma nursing team, or paediatric asthma nurse specialist service, is a dedicated team giving education and support to families of children aged 1-16 with asthma or wheezing.

We aim to work closely with children and their parents, schools, GPs, and hospital doctors to raise awareness and understanding of asthma and wheezing. We want to help lessen the effects of your child's asthma and reduce the risk of emergencies.

We can see children in asthma clinics, on the ward and at home.

## Why does my child need a home visit?

It may be better for us to see your child at home as clinics can get very busy and there may not be time to talk in detail. In your home, we can spend more time discussing the asthma or wheezing in depth to help you look after your child's condition as well as possible.

We will make children who have been admitted to hospital with a severe or life threatening asthma or wheezing attack our priority for home visits. We may also suggest a home visit for children we see in clinic and think more information or support could help them keep well.

## What happens at a home visit?

The home visit will cover:

- understanding the condition
- recognising and managing symptoms
- other relevant medical history
- triggers and avoidance
- home environment
- current management of your child's asthma
- inhaler technique
- a personalised asthma management plan
- stopping smoking advice, if needed.

During the home visit we would like to see where your child sleeps and where they keep and take their medications.

We will also need to see all of your child's treatments including inhalers and spacers. If they have an asthma action plan we would also like to see this.

If you have concerns about housing, such as problems with damp or overcrowding, we may ask you to take photographs and send them to us.

## Who can receive the service?

Your child can be referred to the service by their GP, school nurse or hospital consultant or from an in-patient ward or the emergency department (ED or A&E).

**The team will contact you to arrange an appointment at a convenient time for your family.**

## Useful sources of information

The team have a Twitter page: @SGHAsthma

You may find the following website useful: [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the children's asthma nursing team, please contact us on 020 8725 3043 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm).

Out of hours, email: [stgh-tr.childrensasthma@nhs.net](mailto:stgh-tr.childrensasthma@nhs.net) or [paediatricasthma@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:paediatricasthma@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

**For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.stgeorges.nhs.uk](http://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk)**

## Additional services

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing (near the lift foyer).

**Tel:** 020 8725 2453 **Email:** [pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

### NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

**Web:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

**Tel:** 111

