

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 the families of children aged 1-18 years with asthma or 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 inpatient wards, in emergency departments or 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 enough time to talk in detail. In your home we can spend more time discussing the asthma or wheeze in depth to help you look after your child's condition as well as possible.

We will prioritise a home visit for those children who have been admitted to hospital with a severe or life threatening asthma or wheeze attack. We may also suggest a home visit for children who are seen in clinic and think that more information or support could help keep them well. We will arrange the appointment at a convenient time for your family

What happens at a home visit?

The home visit will cover:

- Understanding your child's asthma
- Recognising and managing symptoms
- Other relevant medical history
- Triggers and avoidance
- Home environment
- Current management of your child's asthma or wheeze
- Inhaler technique
- A personalised asthma action 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 medication. We will also need to see all your child's treatments including inhalers and spacers. If you have an asthma action plan we will review this. If you have any concerns about housing, such as damp or overcrowding, we may ask you to take photographs and send them to us

Useful sources of information

The asthma nursing team has a Twitter page: @SGHAsthma

You may also find the following website useful: www.asthma.org.uk

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's home visit please contact us on 020 8725 3043. Our working hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm and weekends / bank holiday 9am to 1pm. **Please be aware that at times the office is not attended and you will access our answering machine. Please leave a message with your child's name, date of birth or hospital number and a contact telephone number and we will call you back.**

Out of hours, email: stgh-tr.childrensasthma@nhs.net or paediatricasthma@stgeorges.nhs.uk

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit 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 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** 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

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

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all of our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk).

