

UPDATE ON BREATHE COMMUNITY RESPIRATORY SERVICE IN BARNSELY

From the 1 July 2021 the Breathe Community Respiratory Service will be transferring to South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT) from Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. When this happens each of the six Neighbourhoods / Primary Care Networks will be allocated a named Breathe Respiratory Nurse for each area. As soon as we know more, we will write to you again to confirm the changes.

From the 1 July 2021 any patients requiring assessment and support by a specialist respiratory nurse, will be referred through a Single Point of Access (SPA). You will be able to do this by email, telephone, or e-referral (for SystmOne practices). The SPA has a team of administrators and nurses who will process patient referrals and provide advice and guidance for health care professionals. Details of how to refer are outlined below:

Single Point of Access contact details

Telephone: 01226 644575

Email: swy-tr.rightcarebarnsleyintegratedspa@nhs.net

SystmOne Unit: Neighbourhood Teams.

Getting advice and guidance:

From 1 July, if you have urgent or routine queries for a patient with a respiratory condition, you can contact SPA and arrange to speak to a Breathe Respiratory Nurse between the hours of 8am – 8pm (Monday - Sunday). Respiratory Consultants will also be available 8.30am-9:30am, Monday – Friday to provide advice and guidance. Breathe patients will also be able to contact the SPA using the above telephone number to seek support.

Requests for non-urgent advice and guidance can also be sent to our email address: breathe.service@nhs.net

PLEASE NOTE:

From the 1 July 2021, Barnsley Hospital will close the following services on ERS (Electronic Referral Service) so Primary Care will be unable to refer into the service via this route moving forward:

- Breathe – COPD Consultant – Referral Assessment Service – RAS – Barnsley NHS Foundation Trust
- Breathe Advice & Guidance – Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Existing Patients

SWYPFT and BHNFT have contacted patients registered with the service directly to inform them of the changes.

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BREATHE SERVICE GENERAL REFERRAL CRITERIA

The service will be available to all patients aged over 18, registered with a Barnsley CCG GP, including those who live outside Barnsley, who have or are suspected of having an acute or chronic respiratory illness.

The service will assess and support people with:

- COPD
- Pneumonia
- LRTI with diagnosed respiratory condition or requiring specialist respiratory input.
- Asthma
- Bronchitis
- Respiratory rehabilitation pathways (including COVID management and rehabilitation)
- Cancer – EOL
- Other Chronic Respiratory conditions.

The service will provide:

- Home oxygen and nebulizer assessment and review
- Exacerbation support including crisis support and urgent advice to primary care.
- Early supported discharge and post-acute discharge support
- Admission avoidance care and support in patient's homes or long-term residence.

Service Exclusions (Please refer to appropriate services)

- Heart Failure
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation

SPECIFIC PATHWAY CRITERIA

Assisting diagnosis of COPD. When to refer to BREATHE for specialist assessment.

- Diagnostic uncertainty
- No history of cigarette smoking / noxious gas exposure
- Mismatch between symptoms and objective tests
- Confounding important co-morbidities
- Any restrictive pattern on spirometry
- Severe disease at presentation or rapidly declining symptoms or lung function
- Occupational history
- Predominant excessive sputum production
- Onset of symptoms under 40 years of age or family history of alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency

Obligations on Referrers to the Home Oxygen Assessment Service:

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- Quality-assured clinical diagnosis and be medically optimised before referral.
- Pulse oximetry should be undertaken to determine whether the individual is hypoxaemic.
- People who are shown by oximetry to be hypoxaemic i.e. where SpO2 is less than or equal to 92%, or meet the other eligibility criteria, and whose condition is stable, should be referred to the HOS Service to have a full assessment carried out.
- Any person with COPD who is hypoxaemic needs a confirmed and quality-assured diagnosis, including spirometry.
- Where the person's diagnosis is unclear or when significant co-morbidity might contribute to breathlessness or hypoxemia, e.g. heart failure, they should be referred to an appropriate specialist physician.
- People with potential hypercapnic respiratory failure should be also reviewed by a physician. Patients whose oximetry level is borderline (between 92 and 95%) may need further assessment if breathless on exertion or when sleep disordered breathing is a possibility and specialist referral required.

Eligibility criteria for Nebuliser therapy:

Patients in whom long term nebulised therapy is being considered including (but not exclusively):

- Patients with COPD who have distressing or disabling breathlessness despite maximal therapy using inhalers
- Patients with palliative care needs who have distressing breathlessness or cough
- Patients with cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis, or respiratory infections in which nebulised antibiotics is clinically indicated.
- Prior to referral the patient's other therapy should be optimized.

FeNO Testing (Fractional exhaled nitric oxide) – Diagnostic uncertainty for patients with an intermediate probability of asthma.

In the future, the community respiratory team will carry out FeNO Testing. The service will be developing guidance for its use in line with evidence base and NICE guidelines. This will require further training and infrastructure. Further updates will be provided to primary care colleagues.

For any queries relating to this new service or any feedback please contact:

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