BRIEFING FOR GPs AND PRACTICE NURSES

Changes to the provision of paediatric asthma care in the Rochdale borough

This briefing provides important information about some forthcoming changes to the provision of asthma care for children and young people in the Rochdale borough.

Pennine Care’s new Children’s Acute and Ongoing Needs Service (CAONS) will soon begin to offer a respiratory specialism, which will provide care to children and young people with a wide range of respiratory conditions.

This will include some elements of care offered by the current Paediatric Asthma Service – but not all.

Specifically the respiratory specialists, working as part of the CAONS, will provide acute asthma care to children and young people who have been discharged from hospital or who are at risk of a hospital admission.

The paediatric asthma nurses are in the process of informing existing parents and patients of any changes to their care and ensuring the safe and appropriate discharge of any patients requiring chronic asthma management. A discharge letter will be sent to every patient’s GP, as per usual.

New referral process
Referrals for children and young people requiring acute respiratory care should be made via the new Single Point of Access (SPOA). They must be aged from birth to 19 years and live in Heywood, Middleton or Rochdale.

SPOA details:
- Telephone: 01706 676777
- Fax: 0207 019 7419
- Email: pcn-tr.HMRChildrensAONS@nhs.net
- Post: Children’s Acute and Ongoing Needs Service, Callaghan House, Cross Street, Heywood, OL10 2DY

Ongoing support
The respiratory specialists will continue to provide appropriate support to patients, parents, carers and families, to encourage coping and thriving at home. This will reduce the chances of the child needing acute care in the future.

Support and training will also continue to be available to professionals including GPs and practice nurses.
Why are changes being made?
In 2015 NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) put a range of children’s services out to competitive tender. The ‘lot one’ tender was for acute and ongoing needs services and the CCG issued Pennine Care with a one year contract that runs until 31 March 2017.

As part of the new service specification, in September 2016 Pennine Care established a Children’s Acute and Ongoing Needs Service and a Single Point of Access to enable easy access.

This new service includes a range of specialisms including: occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, community paediatrics, children’s community nursing, specialist children’s nursing, orthoptics and respiratory.

Reducing hospital admissions
In the Rochdale borough, hospital admissions for children and young people with a respiratory condition are high – in fact, it is one of the most common reasons for admission.

While these admissions relate to a wide range of respiratory conditions, currently specialist support is only available for children with asthma.

The CCG recognised the need to offer a broader range of community-based respiratory care and the need for this to be high-level and specialist – focusing on children and young people who are acutely unwell.

The respiratory specialists within the Children’s Acute and Ongoing Needs Service will fulfil this need; working with children and young people aged from birth to 19 years, in their own homes or another community-based setting.

By focusing on providing specialist high-level support, rather than the lower-level management of chronic asthma, they can better ensure that children and young people can avoid an unnecessary hospital admission – or be discharged as quickly as possible.

Further information
If you have any queries about the changes please contact Inez Ingham, Respiratory Nurse Specialist, on 01706 676 777 or email inez.ingham@nhs.net

For further details about the service visit: www.penninecare.nhs.uk/hmracuteongoingneeds or www.facebook.com/HMRChildrensRespiratorySpecialists

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