



25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Deputy Brendan Griffin, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 42311/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health what initiatives his Department is taking to assist people with asthma and severe asthma; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Respiratory on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Improving the management of patients with asthma and severe asthma remains a priority for the HSE.

The National Clinical Programme for Respiratory (COPD & Asthma) was set up to support quality and access to respiratory services for patients living with COPD and Asthma. The End-to-End Model of Care for Asthma was published in in 2021.

The implementation of this model is being supported by the Enhanced Community Care (ECC)-funded model. 30 Chronic Disease Community Specialist Teams are being established in 30 Specialist Ambulatory Care Hubs to provide specialist, multidisciplinary care as close to home as possible. This includes new teams specialising in diagnostics for asthma, as well as the prevention and management of asthma with integrated consultants, nurses and physiotherapy services.

In addition, NCP Respiratory

- collaborates with the Asthma Society of Ireland (ASI) to co-design new patient and staff resources including educational webinars.
- provides ongoing support for the Asthma Advice-line run by the ASI.
- has a clinical subgroup who are currently working with DOH to update the NCEC Guideline on 14 management of acute asthma attack.
- collaborates with the Acute Hospitals Drug Management Programme (AHDMP) to support therapies for severe asthma.

Integrated Care Programme for Chronic Disease (ICP CD) and NCP Respiratory also support the vital role that our GP colleagues play in the delivery of the Structured Chronic Disease Management (CDM) Programme started in 2020 in General Practice (GP) which includes asthma patients. CDM reviews are twice yearly structured reviews in GP surgeries for patients aged over 45 with a medical card who are diagnosed with asthma and this is complemented by the ECC funded (a) Direct Access to Spirometry to facilitate diagnosis and (b) additional Respiratory specialist opinion and support in an episodic fashion in the hubs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Anne Horgan**  
**General Manager**