

IDEAS IN PRACTICE

Asthma care by the practice nurse

We noticed that many patients with asthma in our 10-partner practice required more time for education and instruction than was available during normal consultation time. We therefore set up a clinic, which is run by our practice nurse.

Patients are seen and given a simple booklet, a short talk on the meaning of asthma and are instructed in peak-flow measurement and use of any inhalers they might have. They are also given the address of the Asthma Society, both nationally and locally, and a simple form is filled in concerning their condition (courtesy of the Bridge House Medical Centre, Stratford upon Avon). Patients then make a follow-up appointment for the practice nurse where their condition and progress (peak-flow) are monitored and further treatment recommended, if appropriate.

We believe that our patients benefit tremendously by seeing the practice nurse. The financing of the clinic, by way of payment for the proformas and other equipment, has been met by drug companies.

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