

Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) Rapid Uptake Products Programme 2021/22

Purpose of briefing note

This is the fourth of our routine briefing letters on the AAC Rapid Uptake Products programme for 2021/22. We issue these briefings to ensure that clinical leaders have a good overview of the work that we do and have the opportunity to offer feedback, suggest how best we could work with your teams on these and share any examples you may have of best practice in these fields in your areas.

The tables on the following pages outline for each of our workstreams the key progress we have made since last reaching out to you as well key actions upcoming.

Please feel free to reach our lead for this programme area, Jenny Turton (Deputy Director Life Sciences) jenny.turton4@nhs.net If you would like to know more about the programme and our work, specific contacts are given for each of our product areas.

Product updates

Lipid management - Atorvastatin, Rosuvastatin, ezetimibe and PCSK9 inhibitors

The NICE-endorsed Lipid Management Pathway produced by the Product Working Group has been updated to reflect the latest published guidance: *Bempedoic acid with ezetimibe for treating primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia* (NICE TA 694).

The Lipid Management RUP has a strong focus on both clinician and patient education, to enhance the uptake of, and adherence to, the medicines within its remit. Whilst the patient education strategy is in development, the national clinician education programme 'Tackling Cholesterol Together' is well underway. The programme which was launched by Dr Pete Green at HEART UK's virtual conference in July, is delivered in partnership with the AAC, the AHSN Network and HEART UK, and is free to access. Through a broad range of digital learning tools – videos, podcasts, webinars, expert clinics, and online modules – clinical experts and national leaders share knowledge on a range of topics from statin intolerance, to behavioural change, novel therapies, and much more.

The programme supports healthcare professionals in primary and secondary care to help their patients take control of cholesterol management. It will enable healthcare professionals to discover new ways to address underdiagnosis and undertreatment.

All content, which is available through the [HEART UK's website](#), is validated by the AAC Lipids Clinical Advisory Group which is chaired by Professor Helen Williams, National Specialty Adviser for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention at NHSEI. It is produced in collaboration with several strategic

partners including RCGP, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Primary Care Cardiovascular Society, Primary Care Training hubs and the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education.

The first two webinars have been delivered on 'Evaluating CVD Risk' and 'NICE CG181 – what's in it for me?', with the next 'How to implement a cholesterol framework in real world primary care' scheduled for 15 September now open for [registration](#). Over 500 people have attended the webinars to date and CPD certificates have been sent out to all those in attendance. The first e-learning module on 'Statin Intolerance' is also available to complete online.

One of the challenges the Product Working Group is currently facing is around the development of potential QOF indicators incorporating treatment thresholds for patients. The expert clinicians on the Group are currently looking at proposals to address this with NICE colleagues.

If you'd like to know more please reach out to Sue.Critchley@innovationagency.nhs.uk (Education Programme Lead) Julia.Newton@ahsn-nenc.org.uk (AHSN product lead) and Aditya.aggarwal@nhs.net (AAC Relationship Manager)

Asthma biologics – Omalizumab, Mepolizumab, Reslizumab, Benralizumab

The AHSN network has now completed its national benchmarking activity with over 200 sites participating. The 15 AHSNs, whilst building relationships with stakeholders involved in Severe Asthma care, have gathered important data on variation across pathways in primary, secondary, and tertiary care. These data will be used to tailor local and regional improvement plans in the next phase of work to address identified areas of need. The analysis of this data will be available in September 2021.

A new risk stratification tool for potential severe asthma patients is due to be launched in September for use in primary care. The tool will allow those leading on asthma care to identify and prioritise uncontrolled and potential severe asthma and take appropriate action to optimise medication, review adherence and where appropriate refer onwards. A new metric developed with the NHS Business Services Authority will also be launched to enable identification of respiratory patients concurrently prescribed high maintenance doses of oral corticosteroids and who may have undiagnosed severe asthma.

A clinical education training package is currently being developed which will include modules for healthcare professionals about how to identify uncontrolled asthma. The training package will be delivered in partnership with the provider Cogora and will be available on their platform.

The Product Working Group has also worked in partnership with communications and engagement specialists to produce a [patient leaflet for Asthma Biologics](#). The leaflet supports earlier patient identification by educating patients on when to seek further advice from their clinician regarding the control of their asthma.

One of the challenges the Product Working Group currently faces is around the collection of waiting times data for the initiation of biologics treatment. This had led to an extension of the collection deadline to September and the analysis now due to report in October.

If you would like to know more please reach out to tracey.marriott@oxfordahsn.org
james.rose@oxfordahsn.org (AHSN product leads) and sarah.ramjeet@nhs.net (AAC Relationship Manager)

FeNO – Fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO), NOBreath and NIOX devices

The [FeNO Implementation Toolkit](#) has now been launched on the Wessex AHSN's website for all FeNO-related resources and outputs as part of the RUP programme. The clinically facing rollout toolkit has been developed as an extensive online resource area supporting the implementation of FeNO testing locally to help improve the diagnosis of asthma and pathways for people with suspected and confirmed asthma. The webpage hosts a large array of resources and information in one place for healthcare teams to access, as well as signposting individuals to other sources of information and materials that would be beneficial to them. Resources include the programme brief, background information on FeNO, benefits to clinicians and patients, information on local AHSN contacts, supporting NICE policies, FeNO products currently being supported by the programme and case studies collected from exemplar sites using FeNO testing.

The Toolkit hosts a [Case for Change Template](#) and [interactive data dashboard](#) which has now been produced to encourage ICS investment in FeNO testing and implementation within local clinical pathways. The dashboard allows users to identify the cost associated with asthma across CCGs in England and estimates the cost of FeNO equipment as part of the project deployment. The resource also provides a background into FeNO's importance and relevance, patient benefits and the impact of asthma within specific localities.

The Product Working Group has also worked in partnership with communications and engagement specialists to produce a [FeNO Patient Leaflet](#) to support patient education on FeNO testing, its uses, how patients can benefit and how to prepare for the test. It is available in a digitalised format and can be accessed and printed via the Toolkit.

Further resources will be added to the Toolkit in the coming weeks, including the Pathway Transformation Fund (PTF) data collection template due to be launch in September, guidance on Information Governance to support sites in sharing data with AAC/AHSNs, the FeNO Patient Video, and links to the FeNO educational training package which will be available by the end of September on the Health Education England's 'e-learning for health' platform.

If you would like to know more please reach out to nicola.bent@wessexahsn.net (AHSN product lead) and therese.dodoo@nhs.net (AAC Relationship Manager)