

A DECLARATION OF JOINT WORKING  
BETWEEN  
WESSEX AHSN  
AND  
ASTRAZENECA UK LTD

Wessex ASHN and AstraZeneca UK Ltd are engaged in a Joint Working project called “Community Pharmacy Respiratory Disease Screening & Support”.

Respiratory conditions present a significant health burden to the UK population, and are the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common cause of emergency admissions to hospital<sup>1</sup>. The health outcomes for patients living with these conditions in England fall some way behind those achieved by the best-performing countries, in part due to the often late diagnosis.<sup>2</sup>

Most people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are unaware they have the condition; around 835,000 people in England are currently diagnosed with COPD and an estimated 2.2 million are undiagnosed<sup>3</sup>. A similar picture exists locally, suggesting that work is needed to try to overcome current barriers to early diagnosis.

Community pharmacies are accessible, convenient and established within their local communities. By utilising this existing resource, this project offers a means of delivering a package of measures aimed at improving outcomes of respiratory care through early identification, optimised use of medicines and improved self-management.

This project aims to identify undiagnosed COPD patients and improve respiratory care for patients with COPD and will be rolled out over two phases:

The objectives of this project are;

- Improvement of early accurate diagnosis of COPD disease
- Increased effective self-management and patient education
- Reduced inequalities and variation in patient services
- Improvement of patients’ experience of care
- Improvement in patients’ quality of life
- Improved referral routes and access to specialist services across Wessex

This project will run from June 2014 to June 2015 and both parties have contributed resources for this initiative.

1. [NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare for People with Respiratory Disease, Sep 2012](#)
2. [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH\\_128437](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_128437)
3. [An Outcomes Strategy for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease \(COPD\) and Asthma in England, Department of Health, July 2011](#)

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