

Nottingham City Partnership: Integrated Respiratory Service

This 7-day a week service cares for patients who have a confirmed diagnosis of respiratory disease and provides monitoring and management of patients to prevent further deterioration and complications.

It also provides education and support in the community to prevent admission to hospital and reduces the length of any hospital stays.

Service description

Patients are managed and treated according to the severity of their disease. Patients can be referred into the respiratory service by their GP or other health professional. The service will triage patients who are directed into the appropriate avenues of care. The service offers an acute response pathway for patients in exacerbation of their respiratory condition or a chronic respiratory pathway for post hospital discharge support, education and access to Pulmonary rehabilitation classes.

Patients who are not stable and require rapid assessment will be referred to the Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust (NUH) Respiratory Assessment Unit (RAU) via the Pink Card Pathway. This allows direct access and assessment of patients in exacerbation of their respiratory condition directly within secondary care. The Pink Card is issued on receipt of referral into the Integrated Respiratory Service.

Patients whose condition is serious but stable are referred to the RRRS. Intensive assessment, close monitoring and proactive management of the patient's condition will be provided in order to prevent further deterioration. Patients are treated effectively and discharged after a maximum period of three weeks, extended only after discussion with consultant advice. If after a maximum of three weeks patients are still not stable, an onward referral or discussion with a secondary care consultant may be appropriate, or they will be discharged back to their GP.

Patients who have been managed by RRRS are referred to the Respiratory Education Advice and Diagnostic Service (READS) team to receive more information and advice about their disease. A care plan will be initiated or reviewed and pulmonary rehabilitation will be offered as well as spirometry testing and interpretation.

Patients who are diagnosed as unstable will be referred to the NUH RAU unit. Once the patient is stabilised, early supported discharge to the RRRS or READS may be appropriate. If this isn't required the patient is discharged back to their GP.

Discharge Communication Co-ordinators ensure that patients are well informed of the services available to them on discharge from hospital to reduce re-admission rates.

The Integrated Respiratory team provides support for patients on Long Term Oxygen Therapy (LTOT) as well as Ambulatory Oxygen.

For further information please contact the service on 080 561 2121.

The service is a member of the Greater Nottingham Respiratory Pathways Group.