



Association of Respiratory
Nurse Specialists



Response to publication of paper on Asthma Over diagnosis

We have produced the following response after requests for comments on recent publication of the paper "*Is asthma over diagnosed?*" Association of Respiratory Nurse Specialists (ARNS) and National Paediatric Respiratory and Allergy Nurses Group comments on publication of "*Is asthma over diagnosed?*" (1),

Sue Frost, Lead Respiratory Nurse at Birmingham Children's Hospital and Chair of NPRANG said

"Asthma diagnosis should only be diagnosed after objective evidence has been gained. In school aged children this evidence may be considered from a detailed medical history (including parental medical history) symptom diary and home peak flow diary. Peak flow recordings over a period of 2 – 3 weeks are often a very useful measurement. More especially if the professional has no access to other lung function testing equipment.

We do recognise that in pre-school aged children, objective evidence is more difficult to obtain, but a trial of asthma therapy can be considered. This trial should be monitored by the health professional and should not be continued if there is no proven benefit. In this situation, a referral to secondary care should be considered to exclude alternative diagnosis"

(1) Bush A, Fleming L. Arch Dis Child Month 2016 Vol 0 No 0 1

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