



Asthma Courses at Education for Health



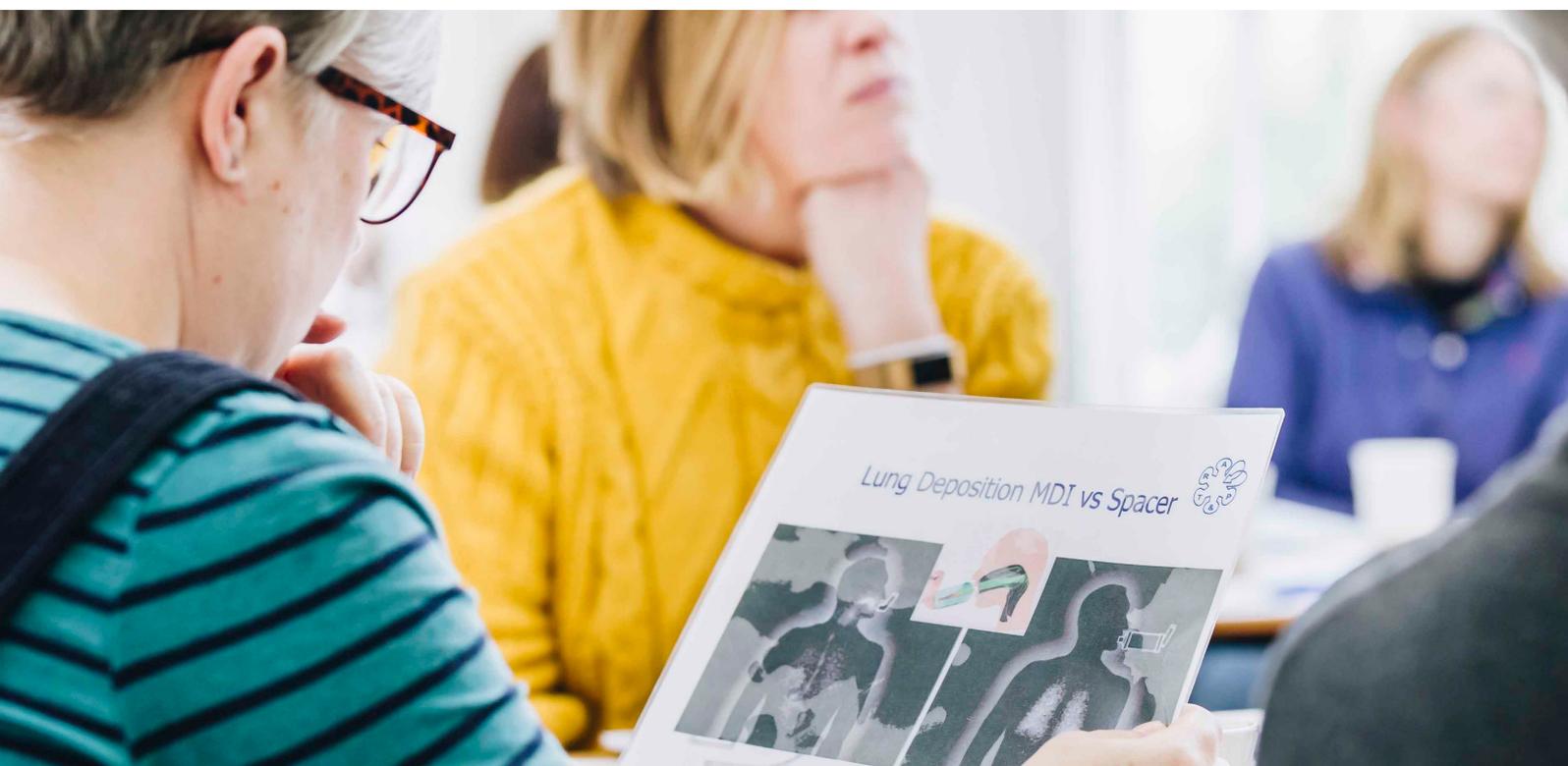
education for health

Introduction

At Education for Health, we create and deliver courses for healthcare professionals to ensure you feel confident when supporting patients with long term conditions. One of our specialist areas is respiratory health, including asthma.

Our Asthma Education Lead, Viv Marsh, and three of our former students share their experience of asthma, studying, and how Education for Health courses have helped develop their knowledge, skills and patient care.

Asthma is the most common long term condition in the UK, with more than 5 million people of all ages affected (source: NHS).



Making an impact through education

Education for Health Asthma Education Lead, Viv Marsh, writes about our asthma offering and the continued need for asthma education.

I joined Education for Health as the Clinical Education Lead for asthma in 2013, having spent the previous seven years working as a Paediatric Asthma and Allergy Nurse Specialist in the NHS. Prior to that, I had been a school nurse for eight years and before that a senior staff nurse of acute paediatric medicine for five years. So, although I am both a Registered General Nurse and a Registered Sick Children's Nurse, my commitment to healthcare for children and young people runs deep.

When my colleagues in the NHS heard that I was joining Education for Health I was contacted numerous times with requests to "bring back the paediatric asthma diploma and this has been very much on my mind ever since. Bringing back an academically accredited module in paediatric asthma was not a realistic goal; the demand was too low to cover the costs (it costs a lot to validate an educational module with a Higher Education Institute).

So, I had to think about this in different ways. What's more, Education for Health has such a strong heritage in providing education for primary care that expanding to the needs in secondary care seemed to be a real challenge. However, with the support of a fantastic Education team, a way forward was found and great progress has been made.

Education for Health now offers academically accredited asthma education modules at diploma, degree and masters level.



Viv Marsh

These are suitable for a variety of Healthcare Professionals. This integrated approach not only widens access to quality assured education, it also supports the goals of the NHS for clinicians to work in partnership with other professionals involved in patients' healthcare.

I am seeing an increasing number of paediatric nurses from all over the UK successfully completing our asthma modules and most recently there has been a surge in demand for degree and masters level study. It is now possible for paediatric nurses to complete a full BSc degree or MSc in Respiratory Practice;

I think this offers tangible options for paediatric nurses wanting to specialise in the respiratory field, which is really exciting. With support from Education for Health, the National Paediatric Respiratory and Allergy Nurses Group (NPRANG) have been able to develop an annual poster competition for its members and this is now being used as a forum for Paediatric Nurses to share examples of good practice and innovative projects.

Education for Health continue to sponsor an educational award as the first prize in the respiratory poster stream of this competition. **We also continue to offer our Introduction to Paediatric Asthma workshop, aimed at professionals in primary care including school nurses and health visitors and most recently we have developed a workshop for those working in acute care settings to support the assessment, management and safe discharge of children experiencing asthma attacks.**

On a final note, Education for Health has worked in partnership with the George Coller Memorial Fund to develop and make freely available a simple online training resource. This aims to raise awareness of paediatric asthma amongst non-healthcare

staff who work with children, such as teachers, guide/scout leaders and sports coaches. Supporting Children's Health is a fantastic resource and it attracts thousands of new users every year, if you haven't already seen it do take a look: www.supportingchildrenshealth.org

When I look back on the past six years, I think it is fair to say we have come along in leaps and bounds. Education for Health now offers a range of high quality, flexible education and training options suitable for those working with children and young people with asthma and other respiratory conditions. And when considering current health circumstances, I can't help but think that this is crucial.

A recent study from the Nuffield Trust think tank and the Association for Young People's Health has emphasised the urgent need for focus on paediatric asthma. The study found that death rates for asthma in 10 to 24-year-olds is highest in the UK when compared to 14 other high-income European nations. By offering asthma education and training that is appropriate for paediatric nurses, I believe we can improve this situation and really impact the lives of young people living with this long term condition.

"If you are an Asthma Nurse, it is an essential course."

Education for Health alumna Colette Datt writes about our asthma offering and the continued need for asthma education.

Asthma is the most common long term medical condition among children and young people in the UK with one million children receiving treatment for asthma. Having up to date asthma healthcare knowledge is therefore hugely important as it can be used in service provision to better support young people and children to manage their asthma condition. Colette Datt is a Nurse Consultant and her clinical work focuses on Paediatric Asthma and Allergy.

Colette worked as a children's community nurse and an acute ward nurse with a background in high dependency and intensive care before becoming an asthma clinical nurse specialist. She said "I felt I needed some theoretical knowledge to support me with developing in the CNS asthma nurse role. I was also keen to network and meet other asthma nurses.



Colette Datt

"Upon completing my Asthma Level 5 course I gained expert knowledge, more confidence and competence to do my job. I learnt lots from other nurses on the course and got ideas of how to develop my service. The tutors were very knowledgeable and supportive."

"My learning experience with Education for Health gave me a baseline to develop into a confident and competent asthma nurse. I was then encouraged to go on and study for an MSc in Allergy which I have done.

"It gave me the confidence to do the MSc and propelled me to become a specialist in my field and become a nurse consultant.

Since studying with us on our Asthma Level 5 course, Colette has co-written books for younger children who have asthma, including 'Monkey Has an Asthma Attack', she won the research prize for her MSc dissertation and won the Nursing Times Nurse Leader of the year in 2018. She has presented at local, National and European conferences on Asthma and led the Asthma friendly schools project in Islington, which has just been published in the British Journal of School Nursing (March 2019).

"If you are an asthma nurse, this is an essential and very relevant course – I would encourage all asthma nurses to do this asthma course – it is a good standard for a general acute paediatric or community nurse – it will enhance their practice."

Why study Asthma with

Education for Health?

A case study following alumna Karen Rodesano's journey through and beyond her Asthma studies.

Developing accurate and up to date knowledge in asthma is essential for all healthcare professionals in primary care and secondary care who care for people with asthma, including paediatric nurses.

Karen Rodesano, who studied an Asthma Level 5 module with Education for Health, started her career as a band 2 nurse in 1999 at the Royal Free Hospital after working in retail management for a few years. She said:

“After qualifying as a paediatric nurse in 2003, I have built my career up to band 7, and I am challenging myself to see if I can make it to band 8 before I retire.

“After taking this Asthma Level 5 course, I have gained more insight and knowledge around asthma which has improved the quality of my work in the community.”

We asked Karen how she has put her knowledge into practice: “I have learnt to teach others, parents, children, young people, students and other health professionals.



Karen Rodesano

“It is great to have a qualification specific to asthma and this will be included in my revalidation, and is good on my CV should I ever want to apply for another respiratory role”.

Since studying with Education for Health, Karen has gone on to work in various roles including as a staff nurse, school nurse and paediatric nurse, before continuing her professional development in her first specialist role as a Looked After Children Specialist Nurse. Karen is now working as a Project Lead for Asthma and Allergy Friendly Islington Schools.

Courses that we offer and commissioned courses

We offer the following Asthma related courses:

- Asthma Level 5 Module
- Asthma Level 6 Module
- Asthma Update Half Day Workshop
- Asthma Update Workshop
- Introduction to Paediatric Asthma Workshop
- Optimising Asthma Management Level 7 Module

As well as our regular course dates held in Warwick and London, Education for Health can also organise delivery of the following courses anywhere in the UK, for commissioners looking for education for cohorts of students.

- Asthma Update half day or full day workshop
- Improving Inhaler Technique half day or full day workshop
- Introduction to Asthma workshop
- Introduction to Paediatric Asthma workshop
- Allergic Rhinitis and its' Impact on Asthma full day workshop
- Asthma Level 5 module (eLearning with two study days)
- Asthma Level 6 module (eLearning with two study days)

In addition we also have workshops specifically for school nurses and health visitors, and a new workshop for those working in acute care settings to support the assessment, management and safe discharge of children experiencing asthma attacks. Contact us on nhsteam@educationforhealth.org to find out more about any of these workshops or courses.



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