**Asthma Topic Introduction**

Asthma is the most common medical condition in children and young people and all nurses who work with this population will be involved in asthma management to varying degree’s depending on their role. Asthma is a complex condition; it is difficult to diagnose and successful management is confounded by numerous factors including lack of knowledge amongst healthcare professionals and poor understanding amongst patients and families. Morbidity levels in patients with asthma are high and the rate of asthma deaths in children in the UK is one of the highest in the world. Asthma is a disease that can be well controlled in the vast majority of patients and almost all asthma deaths are avoidable.

The goals of management are control of the disease and good quality of life for children, young people and their families achieved with the lowest possible levels of treatment and minimal or no side effects.

Nurses working with children, young people and their families can contribute to asthma management no matter what their role or professional setting.

The self-assessment tool for asthma is comprehensive to ensure it is useful to the range of nursing roles and variety of healthcare settings in which they work.

Your next step is to download and complete the asthma self-assessment tool.

Published date: January 2020

Review date: January 2022