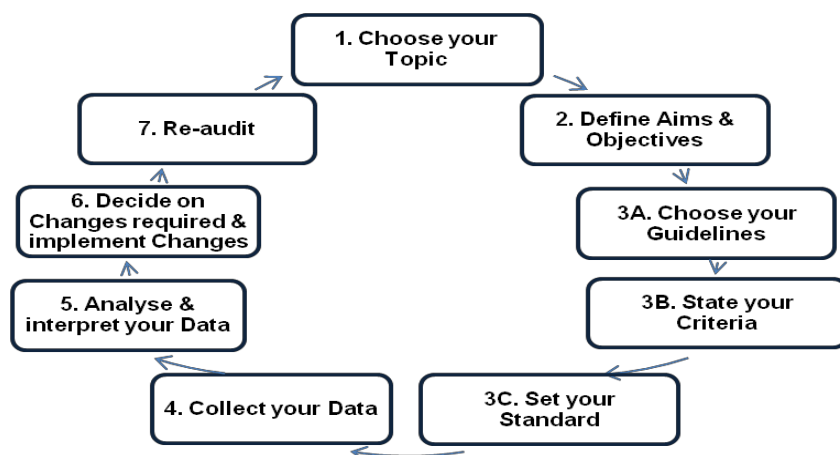




## ASTHMA Sample Audit



### ICGP QUALITY IN PRACTICE COMMITTEE

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## Purpose of ICGP sample audits on specific topics

The purpose of ICGP sample audits is to provide practitioners with audit topic proposals and related tools in order to aid them in carrying out a clinical audit. For each topic, a specific guideline is chosen which identifies best practice. Following this, examples of the elements of care or activity that could be measured are provided – these are referred to as “criteria”. Finally, a “data collection tool” is provided, which contains examples of the types of data that are required for the audit. A separate document, the ICGP Audit Toolkit (available at [www.icgp.ie/audit](http://www.icgp.ie/audit)) provides more detailed generic instructions on how to carry out and report your audit.

## Sample Audit Topic: ASTHMA

### Disclaimer

In all instances where ‘your patients’ are referred to, this can be taken to mean the patients you see. Where ‘your practice’ is mentioned, this refers to the work you do, not necessarily that you need to be based in one particular practice.”

### Best Practice Guideline:

ICGP Quick Reference Guide: “Asthma Control in General Practice – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2013”

(adaptation of the GINA Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention 2012)

Authors: Dr Jean Holohan, Dr Pat Manning, Dr Dermot Nolan

**Professional Competence Domains:** Clinical Skills  
Management  
Patient Safety and Quality of Care

### Sample Criteria:

1. It is recommended that every patient is coded for Asthma once a diagnosis has been confirmed.
2. All patients should have a written Asthma self - management plan.
3. Patients with moderate to severe asthma should receive an influenza vaccination every year.
4. Healthcare professionals should assess asthma control at every visit.
5. Patients should be asked to demonstrate inhaler technique at each visit.
6. If Inhaled Corticosteroid (ICS) alone is being used in medium to high doses, a 50% reduction in dose should be attempted at 3-month intervals.

Choose a single criterion or several criteria from the above examples on which to conduct your audit. If you are auditing a very small number of patients with Asthma, you may need to examine a greater number of criteria. By contrast, in an audit of a very large number of patients, it may only be necessary to examine one criterion. There is no minimum or maximum number of patients stipulated, however your sample should include current / recent patients.

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Once you have chosen your criterion / criteria then set your standard (sometimes known as your target). This is your desired level of performance and is usually stated as a percentage. Beware of setting standards of 100%; standards should be realistic.

**The aim of a Data Collection tool is** to provide examples of the types of data that are required in order to audit each sample criterion.

**Criterion 1:**

"It is recommended that every patient is coded for Asthma once a diagnosis has been confirmed".

**Data Collection Tool:**

- Number of Asthma patients reviewed for this audit
- Number of these Asthma patients who have an ICD-10 or ICPC-2 diagnostic code entered on their medical record

**Criterion 2:**

"All patients should have a written Asthma self – management plan".

**Data Collection Tool:**

- Number of Asthma patients reviewed for this audit
- Number of these Asthma patients who have a written Asthma self-management plan
- Number of Asthma self-management plans that contain advice on:
  - Regular treatment – this includes Controller and reliever medication
  - Step-up treatment and what to do in case of:
    - Asthma getting worse
    - Asthma becoming severe
    - Emergency

**Criterion 3:**

"Patients with moderate to severe asthma should receive an influenza vaccination every year".

**Data Collection Tool:**

- Number of Asthma patients reviewed for this audit
- Number of these Asthma patients with moderate to severe Asthma
- Number of these Asthma patients who received an influenza vaccination during the last influenza season

**Criterion 4:**

"Healthcare professionals should assess asthma control at every visit".

**Data Collection Tool:**

- Number of Asthma patients reviewed for this audit
- Number of these Asthma patients whose asthma control was documented at their last visit

**Criterion 5:**

"Patients should be asked to demonstrate inhaler technique at each visit".

**Data Collection Tool:**

- Number of Asthma patients reviewed for this audit
- Number of these Asthma patients who's inhaler technique was assessed and documented at last visit

**Criterion 6:**

"If inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) alone is being used in medium to high doses, a 50% reduction in dose should be attempted at 3-month intervals".

**Data Collection Tool:**

- Number of Asthma patients reviewed for this audit
- Number of these Asthma patients on ICS alone in medium to high doses for a minimum of three months
- Number of these patients where a 50% reduction in dose was discussed and attempted after a three month treatment period

The next steps are to:

- Analyse and interpret your data via comparison with your target
- Decide on what changes need to be made and to implement these changes
- Re-audit your practice

A detailed explanation of all of these steps can be found in the ICGP Audit Toolkit, which is available on the ICGP Website at [www.icgp.ie/audit](http://www.icgp.ie/audit)