



AN RIALTÓIR CÓGAIŚÍOCHTA  
THE PHARMACY REGULATOR

# Programme Specification for the Diagnosis and Treatment of an Acute Asthmatic Attack and the Supply and Administration of Salbutamol Training Course

Version 1.1

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## Part One

# Accreditation Standards for CPD Programmes and Courses for Pharmacists

[Accreditation Standards for CPD Programmes and Courses for Pharmacists](#) apply to educational programmes for the Supply and Administration of Salbutamol in Emergency Situations<sup>1</sup>. The standards should be referred to when accrediting an education and training programme for the Diagnosis and Treatment of an Acute Asthmatic Attack and the Supply and Administration of Salbutamol.

## Part Two

# Indicative Desired Programme Content and Deliverables

The clinical aspects addressed in this specification are intended to refresh and build on the existing knowledge-base and expertise of pharmacists. Specifically the aim of the training is to enable pharmacists to competently and safely:

- Diagnose and treat an acute asthmatic attack
- Refresh their knowledge on the properties and usage of salbutamol Supply and administer salbutamol in emergency situations in line with SI 449 of 2015 as amended
- Manage possible side effects or adverse events resulting from administration of salbutamol
- Store salbutamol in line with the SmPC
- Make appropriate records following supply and administration of salbutamol in an emergency

It is recommended that the learning outcomes be achieved through an online format. Pharmacists must meet the relevant training requirements as will be specified by the PSI Council.

The following indicative learning objectives are a general guide for training providers to an appropriate scope of the curriculum content for this programme.

The learning outcomes have been broadly divided into two key areas:

### **Key Area 1: Principles of an Asthmatic Attack in both Adults and Children and Supply and Administration of Salbutamol in an Emergency Situation**

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

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<sup>1</sup> Accreditation Standards for CPD Programmes and Courses for Pharmacists came into effect on 21 June 2018. Training Programmes accredited prior to this date have been accredited against The Generic Interim Accreditation Standards for Formal Programmes of Learning for Pharmacy in Ireland

- Give a brief overview of asthma and the principles of its therapeutic and long term management
- Explain how to recognise signs and symptoms of an acute asthmatic attack
- Outline the causes of an asthmatic attack to include general overview of triggers and the identification of high risk groups
- Give details of precautionary methods and management of the patient (including long term care)
- Detail the procedure to assess patients in an emergency, giving a diagnosis (and explain the relevant differential diagnoses)
- Explain the mechanism of action, dose, cautions, side effects and routes of administration of salbutamol 100mcg multi-dose inhaler products available
- Describe the treatment of an acute asthmatic attack (in adults and children) with salbutamol according to relevant national policy, guidelines and agencies
- Briefly describe, for both adults and children, other treatments of a severe asthmatic attack and long term treatment and management of asthma
- Identify the key areas for the provision of information to patients on the long term management of asthma, asthma attacks and the treatment of this with salbutamol 100mcg multi-dose inhaler(s)
- Explain the principles around the safe supply of salbutamol including safe storage and disposal, exclusion criteria, the management of excluded patients and precautions for supply
- Describe the methods for assessment of the patient
- Give details of the measures to ensure patient comfort and safety
- Summarise the overall management of the emergency situation
- Describe how to correctly prepare and administer salbutamol in accordance with the provisions of SI 449 as amended including selecting the correct dose (and using a spacer device if needed)

## **Key Area 2: Post administration and Follow up**

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Describe care post administration, including appropriate positioning of patient and monitoring for signs of improvement or deterioration
- Briefly explain the steps following administration of salbutamol inhaler, details to be explained to the patient including possible side effects and need to contact their doctor; hospital management, blood tests, referral to an asthma specialist
- Describe the process of referral of the patient to another regulated health professional for additional care as needed
- Describe the system in place to record/document the diagnosis and treatment of acute asthmatic attack and the supply and administration of salbutamol inhaler in line with SI 449/2015 as amended

- Specify the requirement to notify other health providers and other appropriate agencies as required (including information on adverse drug reactions)
- Reflect on the delivery of the service and obtain feedback to ensure continuous quality improvement

## References

Access to Education and Support for Children and Young People with Medical Needs (Welsh Assembly Government Circular No: 003/2010, May 2010)

<https://learning.gov.wales/docs/learningwales/publications/131016-access-to-education-for-children-with-medical-needs-en.pdf>

[Accreditation Standards for CPD Programmes and Courses for Pharmacists](#)

[https://www.thepsi.ie/Libraries/Education/Accreditation\\_Standards\\_for\\_CPD.sflb.ashx](https://www.thepsi.ie/Libraries/Education/Accreditation_Standards_for_CPD.sflb.ashx)

Asthma Society of Ireland [www.asthma.ie](http://www.asthma.ie)

Asthma UK [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)

Clinical Content of Patient Group Direction for Administration of inhaled Salbutamol for the emergency treatment of acute exacerbation of asthma or COPD Version 2012.1 NHS Cumbria (available from:

<http://www.cumbria.nhs.uk/ProfessionalZone/MedicinesManagement/NonMedicalPrescribingAndPGDs/Salbutamol-2012.pdf>)

NHS choices asthma in children <http://rphar.ms/1pobG90>

Patient Group Direction for the Administration of Salbutamol via a Spacer by Nurses and Midwives

Working within Primary Care and Community Hospitals NHS Grampian (May 2017)(available

from:[https://foi.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/foidocument/foi-public-documents1---all-documents/PGD\\_Sal\\_Emergency.pdf](https://foi.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/foidocument/foi-public-documents1---all-documents/PGD_Sal_Emergency.pdf))

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions. Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England (Department for Education, 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

The Administration of Medicines in Schools (Scottish Executive, 2001)<http://rphar.ms/1uwaX9X>

All websites accessed on 14/02/2019