

To ICS CYP asthma leads for distribution to paediatric asthma network  
ICS GP lead for distribution to all GP practices

1 November 2021

Dear Colleague

**Re: Near miss with a home nebuliser for asthma**

I am writing to draw your attention to a near miss in primary care with a child using a home nebuliser for asthma. The attached case study provides more information about the context, analysis and some supportive information. With thanks to BHR Primary Care for highlighting this case.

As you may know leadership of children and young people's asthma is provided through the London Asthma Leadership and Implementation Group (LALIG) which meets regularly to drive forward a transformational programme of work around asthma and supports the implementation of the London [asthma ambitions](#) and [standards](#) across the capital. LALIG provides multidisciplinary strategic leadership, in partnership with patients and the public, social care, public health and other frontline professionals. It provides oversight, cohesion and guidance for the asthma transformation programme which is delivered through paediatric asthma networks across London.

Members of LALIG, after discussing the attached case study, asked for a regional letter about their use. **They stated that the use of nebulisers at home for children increases the risk of delaying presentation in the event of an asthma attack. Also, nebulisers when used in hospital are driven by oxygen – using an air-driven nebuliser at home in the event of an asthma attack can lead to hypoxia. Home nebulisers should only be prescribed by a specialist (respiratory physician or paediatrician) and not by a GP. Under no circumstances should primary care prescribe nebulisers for CYP for the treatment of asthma, even if started by tertiary care.**

I would be grateful if you can share this letter amongst your colleagues.

Yours sincerely

Oliver Anglin

Chair of London Asthma Leadership and Implementation Group (LALIG)

Enc ; BHR CCGS home nebuliser update

