

The One Gloucestershire Way



Priority Summary:

Gloucestershire Respiratory Service

Our ambition

We want to support the health and wellbeing of people living with chronic lung disease and the respiratory needs of those with other medical conditions.

Through providing more joined up care, we want to support people to manage their own conditions and have the best possible quality of life.

What are we doing?

- GPs are able to access 'advice and guidance' from a respiratory consultant within 48 hours. In urgent cases, 'on the spot' advice is also available, with the aim of preventing an unnecessary admission to hospital.
- Patients are receiving more joined up care through bringing together hospital and community based teams. For example, hospital and community staff are now able to access the same clinical system, so patient information can be shared and patients can experience a more seamless transition to community respiratory care following a hospital stay.
- More patients are being diagnosed with respiratory conditions in GP surgeries thanks to more education, developing information for healthcare workers via the G Care website and giving GPs access to Spirometry (a diagnostic tool).

Case Study

Patients with chronic respiratory conditions are now able to access more joined up care when they need it. GPs are able to access advice directly from consultants, who can then see the patient on the same day if needed. Patients can also be directed to specialist respiratory support close to where they live, providing more holistic support.

Bill, a patient with COPD in the Forest of Dean, shared his experience:

"Following a recent flare up of my condition, my GP was able to speak to a consultant for some advice without me needing to attend a hospital appointment. I was referred to the Gloucestershire Respiratory Service who supported me to manage my flare up at home and referred me to the pulmonary rehabilitation programme. I'm now feeling much more confident with managing my breathlessness and know where to go if I need more support."



What next?

- We want to continue building on our achievements, using technological solutions to support improved communication across health and social care. This will enable important information to be available to those making decisions with patients about their care.
- We want to reduce the need for patients to travel to hospital appointments, instead being able to access the support they need closer to home, for example, locality based specialist community clinics, pulmonary rehabilitation programmes or other support groups such as Breathe In Sing Out.