

Exploring the delivery of online asthma reviews in primary care: a mixed-methods study

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Background

- An **asthma review** is a routine check-up to
 - address concerns and questions
 - assess control and review medicine
 - support self-management
- Reviews should be completed regularly (**at least annually, in stable patients**)
- 1 in 20 patients missed GP appointments (UK NHS)
- Asthma clinics have higher than average missed appointments.



- Practical barriers (e.g., geographical distance, busy work life, transportation time and cost, long waiting time) to attending face-to-face consultations might limit regular asthma reviews.
- **Online consultation with limited face-to-face contact** is likely to become a global model of asthma care
- However, it is not clear if/how online asthma reviews are:
 - acceptable and useful to patients,
 - perceived as effective and safe by clinicians, and
 - how they should be organised in routine primary care

Objectives and Methods

1. Identify existing approaches to online asthma reviews

- Systematic review of existing literatures
- Scoping exercise to explore processes and technologies already in place

2. Explore perceptions of implementing online asthma reviews

- In-depth interviews of relevant stakeholders
- Observation of how practices use online questionnaires/consultations

3. Develop a toolkit of procedures for safe use of online reviews

- Synthesis of the learning from the systematic review and qualitative phase

4. Test the feasibility of implementing the online review procedure

- Feasibility study with a small group of general practices

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References

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2. NHS (2020). Millions of patients benefiting from remote consultations as family doctors respond to COVID-19.

Question to discuss
How should online asthma reviews be organised in the context of routine primary care?