

required to irreversible respiratory failure and possible death (see the [Nursing Care Plan](#) box).

Nursing Care Plan

The Child with Asthma

Case Study

Jeremy is a 17-year-old male with a history of asthma. His asthma symptoms have been controlled with use of a long-acting inhaler twice daily but an increase in seasonal allergies and a recent upper respiratory infection (URI) has caused an exacerbation of his symptoms. Jeremy rarely uses his peak expiratory flow meter (PEFM), instead he waits until his symptoms become severe before starting to use his rescue medications. He now presents to his primary care provider with his mother to seek further treatment as his symptoms are not resolving with his current treatment.

Assessment

Based on these events, what are the most important subjective and objective data that should be assessed?

Acute Asthma Exacerbation Defining Characteristics

Dyspnea

Shortness of breath

Diminished breath sounds and/or adventitious breath sounds (wheezing)

Increased respiratory rate

Use of accessory muscles (retractions)

Dry cough

Chest tightness or chest pain

Nursing Diagnosis