

ACUTE ASTHMA FLOW CHART

TRIAGE to record PEAK FLOW

Document asthma severity

Moderate

- Peak flow 50 – 70% of best/ predicted.
- Increasing symptoms.
- No features of severe or life threatening.

Severe

- Peak flow 33-50% of best/ predicted.
- RR \geq 25/ min
- HR \geq 110/MIN
- Inability to complete full sentences in one breath

Life threatening

- Peak flow < 33%
- Cyanosed or sats \leq 92%
- Altered consciousness.
- Exhaustion
- Arrhythmia/ hypotension
- Poor respiratory effort

ESCALATE TO ED CLINICIAN

Assess: Wheeze, added sounds, respiratory effort

- If features of life-threatening severity, please go to 2.

Treatment - In the presents of clinical features

- Aim sats \geq 94%
- Prescribe nebulised salbutamol 5mg, Ipratropium 0.5mg and prednisolone 40mg. ONLY NEBULISE WITH OXYGEN
- Request chest Xray
- Review patient an hour post treatment and peak flow

2. ESCALATE TO SENIOR DOCTOR

- Move to resus - ABG
- IV magnesium
- Refer to medics.
- Consider ITU/HDU if no improvement.
- Do not discharge.

Admission

- Admit ALL Patients not improved 1hr post treatment and needing 2nd treatment.

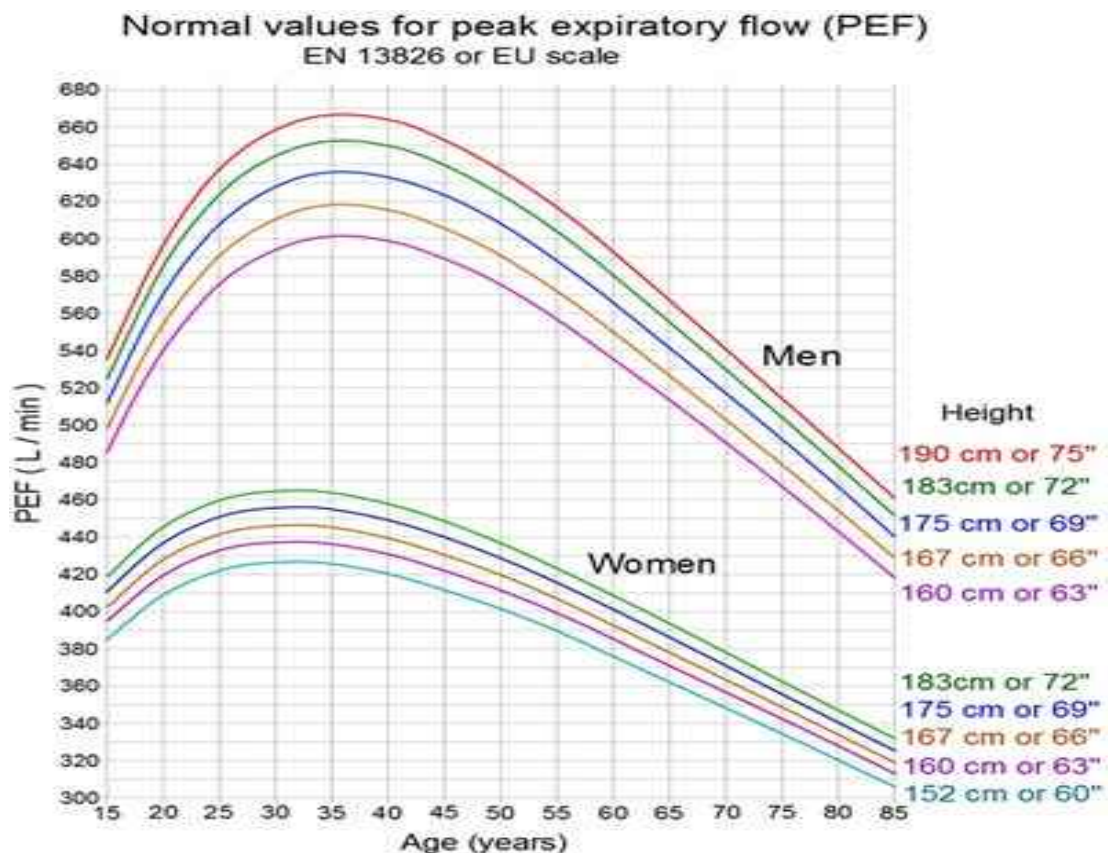
Consider admission if:

- History of ITU,
- Had a course of steroids in the last 6 months.
- Night presentation.
- If socially isolated
- Psychological problems or learning difficulties or disabilities.

Discharge and safety netting

- **Only discharge if peak flow improved >75% of best or predicted after 1hr post treatment.**
- Complete and Document ASTHMA 4 before discharging (see overleaf).
- Discharge letter to specify discharging peak flow, TTO's given, follow up appointment within 48hrs of discharge.

Predicted peak flow graph



Asthma attack care bundle

1. Medication review

- Ensure patient is on Inhaled corticosteroid therapy. Medication review guidance: [ASTHMA, management of adults in primary care - Pan Mersey APC](#)
- Assess inhaler technique and adherence.
- Consider stepping up therapy if adherence is good (SWISS nurses can help).

2. Personalised asthma action plan

- [Your asthma action plan | Asthma + Lung UK \(asthmaandlung.org.uk\)](#)

3. Tobacco dependence support:

- Offer brief advice and for current smokers and vape users.

4. Clinical review within four weeks:

- SWISS Nurse referrals for all Knowsley patient to be done on care flow. interventions. Check postcode: [Postcodes in Knowsley \(doogal.co.uk\)](#) before referral.
- Non-Knowsley patients are to have a detailed GP discharge letter clearly specifying a need to review patient with in 4 weeks of discharge date.

