



Funding available for Asthma biologics across the South West of England

[Asthma biologics](#) is part of the [Radid Uptake Products](#) (RUP) programme for 2021/2022. The RUP Programme is designed to support stronger adoption and spread of proven innovations and is led by AHSNs across England.

Funding available

Following a successful bid submitted by South West and West of England AHSNs to the Pathway Transformation Fund in April 2021, £129,000 funding has been awarded for the treatment of severe asthma. The [Pathway Transformation Fund](#) (PTF) is available to help NHS organisations integrate selected RUP into everyday practices and to overcome barriers to deploying them. The two AHSNs will be working alongside the South West Severe Asthma Network, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Acute Trusts.

What is the funding for?

Funding is available to the entire South West of England, from Cornwall to Swindon. The [South West Severe Asthma Network](#) (SWAN) will work with all hospitals to create a common pathway for managing asthma care streamlining the process of referral to severe asthma centres and access to asthma biologic therapy. This means that each hospital across the region can receive funding over the coming year to support 2 hours' extra consultant plus 2 hours' extra respiratory nurse time per week to deliver the objectives outlined within our application.

The bid also allocates monies for facilitating biologic access in children with severe asthma through Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.

We're encouraging all asthma teams across the South West to get involved in this work, including those that refer patients outside the South West region.

What happens next?

To progress the work, the SWAN plan to form a working group comprising representatives (medical and/or respiratory nursing) from each of the Trusts across the South West. The group will meet virtually and be supported by a project manager. The project will dovetail into the ongoing work of the SWAN.

How can we get involved?

Many of you will be aware of this project through SWAN, if that is not the case or you would like more information, please contact the West of England AHSN's RUP lead and Deputy Director of Service and System Transformation, [Clare Evans](#).