

Update: Implementing a FeNO Testing Pathway

£70k funding has been secured to enable local access to FeNO Testing for all GP Practices across the BSW region. The funding secured aims to improve patient care and outcomes by more effective diagnosis of patients suspected of having asthma.

In Year one of the project, the focus is on using FeNO Testing for new diagnosis. Historical QOF data shows that there are approximately 3012 newly diagnosed asthma patients across the BSW footprint annually, with records also indicating a total asthma population of 67,341 (BSW QOF data 2019). This new pathway will provide access to FeNO Testing for a population of circa 520,000. The implementation is being rolled out in three phases and locality project groups are meeting regularly to share learning.

How is funding being used:

The funding secured has been used to purchase FeNO devices and mouthpieces, backfill local project leads and pay for transport expenses. The West of England AHSN has co-ordinated training to use the devices and the delivery of educational webinars, which have been attended by over 40 members of staff from BSW, in addition to facilitating the development of a new diagnostic pathway which [can be viewed here](#).

Project progress – and feedback from the frontline

There are currently seven practices in BaNES who have had access to FeNO testing since 15 November. They are using a mobile model with three devices moving around the locality. A further twelve devices are about to be deployed in Swindon and Wiltshire with the aim that all practices in these localities will begin testing in the next month.

Nicci Mawer, Nurse at Combe Down Surgery, which is currently using FeNO testing, said:

“We have been using the FeNO machine in my practice for a couple of months now. I started using it with a degree of scepticism but can honestly say it is a valuable tool for aiding the diagnosis of asthma in patients needing potential treatment. It helps decision making when considering asthma diagnosis. FeNO testing is easy to use and clean and can be done in a 10 minute appointment. Patients find it easy to understand how to use with the interactive tool available and it gives an immediate result, which can prove to patients that there is inflammation that needs dealing with.”

What's next? How to get involved:

The West of England AHSN will be continuing to support the implementation of FeNO testing until June 2022. If your practice is not yet involved in this project and would like to be, please email Charlotte Hallett, Senior Project Manager charlotte.hallett2@nhs.net for more information and to be put in touch with your local project lead.

You can also access FeNO e-learning resources and implementation packs on the [AHSN's website](#).