
REFERRAL FOR ASTHMA TO A SPECIALIST PULMONOLOGIST

Indications for referral include:

A. IMMEDIATE REFERRAL TO A&E

- Severe life-threatening asthma.

B. EMERGENCY REFERRAL TO A SPECIALIST

- Following a severe/life threatening asthma attack.
- Obvious systemic features of myalgia, fever, weight loss.
- Unexpected clinical findings – crackles, clubbing, cyanosis, cardiac disease, stridor.
- Persistent non-variable breathlessness.
- Chronic sputum production.
- Spirometry with pathological findings.
- Chest x-ray shading.
- Marked blood eosinophilia.

C. ROUTINE REFERRAL TO A SPECIALIST

- If diagnosis is not clear.
- Asthma possibly related to the work environment.
- Poor response to asthma treatment - has tried up to stage 4 – ICS + LABA + leukotriene antagonist.
- Patient anxiety.

Source:

British Thoracic Society (BTS) / Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) 2016. British Guideline on the Management of Asthma. A national clinical guideline.