

# Evidence Brief: Respiratory Nursing

## Contents

Key publications – the big picture .....	2
Case Studies.....	3
The Star for workforce redesign.....	3
Statistics.....	3
National Data Programme.....	4
Published Peer Reviewed Research.....	4
Training and workforce development.....	4
Quality improvement and innovation .....	6
COVID-19.....	8
Workforce perspectives and experiences.....	10
Competency Frameworks .....	11
*Help accessing articles or papers.....	12

Produced by the Knowledge Management team Evidence Briefs offer an overview of the published reports, research, and evidence on a workforce-related topic.

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- [Complete Evidence Brief list – link for External staff](#)

### Key publications – the big picture

[Guidance for growing and developing the pulmonary rehabilitation multidisciplinary team](#) 2023, NHS England  
[The NHS Long Term Plan](#) recognised pulmonary rehabilitation as a high value intervention that can reduce days spent in hospital and improve outcomes for people living with chronic respiratory conditions [1, 2]. It identified the need to expand provision so that more people can benefit from this intervention. However, [Quality and Outcomes Framework \(QOF\) data for 2021/22](#) shows only 36.9% of the eligible population is being referred for pulmonary rehabilitation, and systems frequently report insufficient workforce capacity is hindering pulmonary rehabilitation and wider respiratory healthcare service expansion. Addressing this is key to reducing the gap in healthy life expectancy between communities.

[NHS Long term Workforce Plan](#) 2023, NHS England  
The first comprehensive workforce plan for the NHS, putting staffing on a sustainable footing and improving patient care. It focuses on retaining existing talent and making the best use of new technology alongside the biggest recruitment drive in health service history.

[Respiratory Disease: understanding the future service and workforce needs](#) 2022, Health Education England  
This report includes initial recommendations that we will aim to take forward jointly and address. We will focus on respiratory workforce data and supply by scoping how best we can help develop actions to address uniformity in data system sources and any system data gaps. At the same time, we will look at workforce upskilling and training thinking about the skills and capabilities that are required as new roles and ways of working emerge specifically for 'out of hospital' care.

[A respiratory workforce for the future](#) 2022, British Thoracic Society (scroll down webpage to see download link)  
The NHS has an inadequate number of skilled respiratory staff across all professions to deal with the growing care demands of the UK population. This has a negative impact on patient outcomes, and on the teams providing their care.

[Mapping a career path for Adult Respiratory Nurses](#) 2020, British Thoracic Society  
Today, the British Thoracic Society (BTS) has published the first professional development framework for adult respiratory nursing, to provide respiratory nurses with a clearer career pathway, from band 5 to consultant nurse.

[The NHS Long term Plan](#) 2019, NHS England  
In looking ahead to the Health Service's 80th birthday, this NHS Long Term Plan takes all three of these realities as its starting point. So to succeed, we must keep all that's good about our health service and its place in our national life.

[A National Five Year Plan for Lung Health](#) 2018, Taskforce for Lung Health  
A five year plan to create a society where everyone can live with healthy lungs for as long as possible and have the best chance of living well, or recovering, when lung disease develops.

[Evaluation of the current landscape of respiratory nurse specialists in the UK: planning for the future needs of patients](#) 2017, BMJ  
This survey report provides a current snapshot of the respiratory nurse specialist workforce in the UK. This workforce is an ageing population; the results from this survey can be used to inform succession planning and to ensure a viable respiratory nurse specialist workforce in future.

### Case Studies

#### [Two NHS trusts pilot innovative ILD pathway: Boehringer](#)

[Ingelheim partnership](#) August 2024, Nursing Times

Imagine having a life-limiting lung disease that needs fast, specialist diagnosis and ongoing management, but access to care can be challenging and inequitable

#### [Inspirational nurse who transformed respiratory care named RCN Scotland Nurse of the Year 2023](#)

Royal College of Nursing  
Developing a partnership with Chest, Heart, and Stroke Scotland, Amy transformed respiratory care resulting in readmissions dropping from 20% to 8% - benefiting both patients and the ward team. Amy met the challenge of caring across a wide geography head on, liaising directly with GPs to ensure equality of access.

#### [Developing an integrated respiratory team in NHS Dumfries and Galloway](#)

March 2021, British Journal of Nursing  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway is a remote and rural health board in south-west Scotland and our Integrated Respiratory Team (IRT) provides a region-wide service covering 2500 square miles, a population of 149 500 with 45% of the population living remotely from the largest settlement of Dumfries. The Respiratory Managed Clinical Network developed a 'spend to save initiative' that was approved by the Integrated Joint Board in April 2018 with funding to expand the existing respiratory nurse specialist and pulmonary rehabilitation teams. We wanted to provide more same-day early supported discharges (ESDs), reduce lengths of stay, develop admission avoidance (AA) and provide better access to pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) across the region.

#### [A day in the life of a Paediatric Respiratory Nurse Specialist](#)

September 2021, Transformation Partners in Health and Care

I'm Claire, paediatric respiratory nurse specialist at the Royal Brompton Hospital. Follow me while I navigate you through a day in the life of an asthma nurse. There is no such thing as a typical day's work as every day brings something new.

#### [A case study of a collaborative allied health and nursing crisis response](#)

September 2020, Journal of Interprofessional Care  
Using an evaluative case study, a unique insight into the collaborative allied health and nursing professions' response to COVID-19 at a specialist cardiothoracic hospital in the United Kingdom is presented.

### The Star for workforce redesign

More resources and tools are available by searching for 'Nursing' in [the Star](#).

### Statistics

You can find relevant statistics on the [Health and Care Statistics Landscape](#) under "**Health and Care**" and use the "**Respiratory**" filter

#### [New GIRFT metrics for respiratory medicine shared on Model Health System can support winter bed planning](#)

January 2024, Getting it Right First Time

GIRFT metrics now available on the Model Health System (MHS) can support NHS respiratory medicine teams to recover services from the impact of Covid-19, as well as helping to ease winter pressures.

More than 70 metrics relating to activity for high-volume respiratory conditions such as pleural disease, pneumonia,

chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma can now be found by logging in at [Model Health System](#) and navigating to the GIRFT clinical metrics compartment for the specialty.

### RESPIRATORY MEDICINE WORKFORCE SURVEY REPORT 2021

British Thoracic Society, 2021

The BTS Respiratory Medicine Workforce Survey 2021 again showed that there are major challenges in respiratory workforce recruitment across the country.

- [BTS Respiratory Specialty Trainee survey report 2020](#) View the results of a survey of respiratory specialty trainees.
- [Respiratory Medicine Workforce Review Statement 2020](#) A summary of key issues facing those working in respiratory medicine in secondary care
- [Respiratory Workforce Facts and Figures 2020](#) Facts and figures about the respiratory workforce in support of our aim of Better Lung Health for all.

## National Data Programme

Workforce, Training and Education staff can look at the [WT&E Data and Analytics Service](#) resources including the National Data Warehouse SharePoint site to find out more about datasets and Tableau products.

## Published Peer Reviewed Research

### Training and workforce development

#### Nursing Roles in Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation

Journal: American Journal of Nursing

Publication date: November 2024

Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) is a type of mechanical circulatory support that is increasingly utilized in the United States for severe respiratory and/or cardiac failure refractory to conventional therapies. It is an expensive and complex life support modality. Moreover, patients on ECMO are critically ill and require a strong multidisciplinary care team. A successful ECMO program involves a trained team consisting of physicians, perfusionists, nurses, and respiratory therapists. This article discusses the multiple roles of ECMO nurses, the various ECMO delivery care models, and the potential cost savings of an RN ECMO specialist staffing model—and introduces the novel role of the ECMO lead.

#### A national postgraduate nurse practitioner and physician assistant fellowship in cystic fibrosis: An innovative approach to the provider shortage in complex and rare disease *Abstract only\**

Journal: Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners

Publication date: September 2024

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a complex life-limiting genetic condition that affects the respiratory, digestive, reproductive system, and sweat glands. Advances in treatment have led to improved survival and quality of life. Today, most persons with CF live to adulthood but require highly specialized care at accredited CF Care Centers. The growing and aging CF population combined with the provider workforce shortage have increased the demand for qualified CF providers. Nurse practitioners (NPs) and

physician assistants (PAs) have been providing CF care for decades, but most learned on the job. The Leadership and Education for Advanced Practice Provider (LEAPP) fellowship in CF care aims to address the provider gap, ease transition to practice, and ensure access to specialized care. Unlike other institutional based joint NP/PA fellowships, LEAPP was designed to train providers at various locations across the national CF care center network.

[Effect evaluation of competency-based education \(CBE\) combined with multi-disciplinary team \(MDT\) teaching mode in respiratory rehabilitation nursing teaching: A randomized controlled trial](#)

Journal: Nurse Education in Practice  
Publication date: March 2024

Respiratory rehabilitation, as an important non drug treatment for chronic respiratory disease, started late in China, with low implementation rate in hospitals and insufficient knowledge of nursing staff. Therefore, it is urgent to cultivate high professional level nurses with strong professional ability.

[Respiratory syncytial virus and its prophylaxis with palivizumab: exploring nurses' knowledge Abstract only\\*](#)

Journal: Nursing Children and Young People  
Publication date: September 2023

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the most common cause of lower respiratory tract infections in children. Premature infants and infants with underlying health issues are at increased risk of developing severe RSV infection. Prophylactic treatment with palivizumab reduces their risk of hospitalisation.

[How registered nurses are measuring respiratory rates in adult acute care health settings: An integrative review](#)

Publication date: 2023

Despite its importance, this integrative review has determined that respiratory rates are not being assessed correctly by nursing staff in the acute care environment. Evidence of using estimation, value bias or quick count and multiply techniques are emerging themes which urgently require further research.

[New Graduate Respiratory Therapists' Perceptions of Their Transition to Practice \[Australia\]](#)

Journal: Respiratory Care  
Publication date: 2023

The nursing profession has recognized the need to acknowledge the successes and failures of graduates' transition to practice so that these programs can be continuously improved. The challenge is in identifying aspects of the transition to practice that may improve job satisfaction, retention, professional development, and patient care for RTs. This research aimed to explore the perceptions of new graduate RTs' experiences during their first year of practice and identify barriers and facilitators to a successful transition to practice.

[Need and baseline for harmonising nursing education in respiratory care: preliminary results of a global survey](#)

Journal: Breathe  
Publication date: 2022

These findings support the need for a core respiratory curriculum. To advance this significant work the ICRN group plans to conduct a Delphi study to identify core curriculum requirements for respiratory nursing education at pre-registration and advanced educational levels to flexibly meet each country's specific educational requirements for recognition of respiratory nursing speciality practice.

[Guidance for home oxygen weaning in the community \(PPLOG\)](#)

Journal: Journal of Neonatal Nursing  
Publication date: 2022

The aim of this home oxygen weaning guidance is to bring evidence-based knowledge and the experiences of Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialists, Community Children's Nurses and Community Neonatal Nurses together, to address the unwarranted variation across community children & young people (CYP) services in relation to Long Term Oxygen Therapy (LTOT). This guidance has been created with an aim to ensure the management of CYP on home oxygen therapy is safe, effective, timely and standardised within London and other England regions especially when the oxygen process begins.

### [COPD-Specific Self-Management Support Provided by Trained Educators in Everyday Practice is Associated with Improved Quality of Life, Health-Directed Behaviors, and Skill and Technique Acquisition: A Convergent Embedded Mixed-Methods Study](#)

Journal: The Patient  
Publication date: 2020

We conducted a convergent embedded mixed-methods study. Respiratory educators attended a 7-h, lecture-based continuing education activity on self-management support held in Québec, Canada. Four months after the continuing education activity, in their professional practice, trained educators provided self-management support to patients with COP.

### [Do we need tailored training and development plans for European Union respiratory nurses?](#)

Journal: Breathe  
Publication date: 2020

Nurses are critical players in healthcare and should be the next profession to standardise levels of education, preparing them for an active partnership with other healthcare professionals prepared to tackle the chronic disease problem in Europe.

### [What's in a name: should nursing job titles be regulated?](#)

Journal: Nursing Times  
Publication date: 2019

This article presents the landscape in respiratory nursing to illustrate the plethora of titles used in the UK.

### [Research priorities for respiratory nursing: a UK-wide Delphi study](#)

Journal: ERJ Open Research  
Publication date: 2018

The top five research priorities were: 1) "Patient understanding of asthma control"; 2) "The clinical and cost-effectiveness of respiratory nurse interventions"; 3) "The impact of nurse-led clinics on patient care"; 4) "Inhaler technique"; and 5) two topics jointly scored: "Prevention of exacerbations" and "Symptom management".

## Quality improvement and innovation

### [Using quality improvement to tackle the triple aim for children and young people with asthma: improving outcomes, experience and costs](#)

Journal: British Journal of Healthcare Management  
Publication date: 2023

Having dedicated specialist asthma nurse input in the community and using school-based interventions can help to improve asthma care for children and young people, reducing the burden of frequent accident and emergency department admissions. Using quality improvement methods in pursuit of triple aim outcomes can help teams to work towards a shared goal.

### [Improving Communication to Neonatal Resuscitation Team Members During High-Risk Births \[United States\] Abstract only\\*](#)

Journal: Nursing for Women's Health  
Publication date: 2023

Two labor and delivery units and a third labor-delivery-recovery-postpartum unit within a health care system in the southeastern United States. Participants: Nurses, nurse practitioners, respiratory therapists, and physicians who are part of the neonatal resuscitation team. Implementing a communication tool for use in high-risk births may improve communication to neonatal resuscitation team members, enhance preparation for neonatal care, and increase team members' satisfaction with interprofessional communication.

### Impact of nursing care on lung functional residual capacity in acute respiratory distress syndrome patients *Abstract only\**

Journal: Nursing in Critical Care

Publication date: 2022

The lung impedance distribution technique during nursing care appears feasible in the majority of patients with ARDS. Some daily nursing care in ARDS patients (including bed-bathing and mouth care) resulted in a prolonged decrease in lung functional residual capacity and therefore could be associated with pulmonary de-recruitment.

### Nursing surveillance of respiratory adverse events among hospitalized adults: A systematic review to guide evidence-based practice *Abstract only\**

Journal: Worldviews on Evidence-based Nursing

Publication date: 2022

Nursing surveillance (NS) involves the purposeful, ongoing acquisition, interpretation, and synthesis of patient data for clinical decision-making. Surveillance is used to identify patients with early signs of distress and prevent adverse events.

### An audit of the British Thoracic Society asthma discharge care bundle in a teaching hospital *Abstract only\**

Journal: British Journal of Nursing

Publication date: 2021

The results of the audit indicated that the hospital has complied with the ADCB. In total, 85% of patients had their inhaler technique checked, but 62% of them were not provided with any written inhaler use instructions. The respiratory clinical nurse specialists were more compliant with most of the bundle statements than the medical team.

### The preferences of people with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease for self-management support: A qualitative descriptive study

Journal: Journal of Clinical Nursing

Publication date: 2021

A respiratory nurse specialist was valued as being a care coordinator who could support routine management as well as managing exacerbations, having specialist knowledge and knowing the patient over time.

### Performance of Automated Point-of-Care Respiratory Rate Counting versus Manual Counting in Children under Five Admitted with Severe Febrile Illness to Kisantu Hospital, DR Congo [Belgium and DR Congo]

Journal: Diagnostics

Publication date: 2021

In conclusion, in the present setting the automated RR counter performed insufficiently to facilitate the early recognition of danger signs in children with severe febrile illness, given wide limits of agreement and a too low positive percent agreement.

### Performance of automated versus nurse-measured respiratory rate measurements in hospitalised malnourished children

[Canada] *Abstract only\**

Journal: Acta Paediatrica

Publication date: 2021

The study was funded by Mining4Life Chair in Mineral Nutrition through the SickKids Foundation, ALIMA and PATH.

### Use of a Multidisciplinary Mechanical Ventilation Weaning Protocol to Improve Patient Outcomes and Empower Staff in a Medical Intensive Care Unit *Abstract only*\*

Journal: Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing

Publication date: 2021

Patients in the RN- and RT-driven mechanical ventilation weaning protocol group had significantly lower duration of mechanical ventilation (74 vs 152 hours;  $P = .002$ ) and ICU length of stay (6.7 vs 10.2 days;  $P = .031$ ). There was no significant difference in reintubation rates between groups. Staff surveys indicate that both RN and RTs were satisfied with the process change.

### From Progressive Asthma to Intensive Care Unit Respiratory Failure: Approaches Nursing Approach to Patient Care

[China]

Journal: Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine

Publication date: 2021

Respiratory nurse practitioners play a vital part in ICU management, the treatment of patients with asthma, providing training on inhaler use, preparing asthma action plans and assisting in ER management of patients with asthma.

### Novel quality improvement method to reduce cost while improving the quality of patient care: retrospective observational study

Journal: BMJ Safety and Quality

Publication date: 2020

The respiratory ward collected two sets of capacity measures: one for day shift and the other for night shift. The senior charge nurse developed a form that nurses carried with them during a shift to fill out to capture time spent on specific tasks. Initially, one nurse did this every shift, each day. After several weeks, the

senior nurse averaged the data from several nurses' observations once per month.

### Recommendations for improving follow-up care for patients with mesothelioma: a qualitative study comprising documentary analysis, interviews and consultation meetings

Journal: BMJ Open

Publication date: 2020

This study has developed recommendations which identify the need for patients with pleural mesothelioma to access consistent, specialist, streamlined mesothelioma care, centred around specialist mesothelioma nurses and respiratory consultants, with input from the wider multidisciplinary team.

## COVID-19

### Redeployment to critical care during the COVID-19 pandemic: A phenomenological study

Journal: Nursing in Critical Care

Publication date: 2023

Familiarity was a key element of people feeling comfortable and the confidence core staff had in colleagues who had come to help. Support and preparation helped but staff were anxious about their own work and concerned about the open-ended nature of redeployment.

### Factors influencing fatigue in UK nurses working in respiratory clinical areas during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic: An online survey

Journal: Journal of Clinical Nursing

Publication date: 2022

A high proportion of nurses working in respiratory clinical areas have been identified as experiencing fatigue in addition to continued levels of anxiety, depression over winter 2020. Interventions need to be implemented to help provide mental



health support and improve workplace conditions to minimise PTSD and burnout.

### [Experiences of nurses caring for respiratory patients during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic: an online survey study](#)

Journal: BMJ Open Respiratory Research

Publication date: 2021

Nurses have been at the forefront of the pandemic response, involved in extensive coordination of services, screening, vaccination and front-line work in respiratory, emergency and intensive care environments. The nature of this work is often intense and stress-provoking with an inevitable psychological impact on nurses and all healthcare workers. This study focused on nurses working in respiratory areas with the aim of identifying and characterising the self-reported issues that exacerbated or alleviated their concerns during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Priorities for research during the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) pandemic and beyond: a survey of nurses, midwives and health visitors in the United Kingdom](#)

Journal: Journal of Research in Nursing

Publication date: 2021

Four higher-order themes emerged, (1) New and unknown frontiers; (2) Care and treatment solutions; (3) Healthcare leadership and inclusive workforce; and (4) Emotional and mental health impact.

### [Acceptability, Usability, and Performance of Lateral Flow Immunoassay Tests for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Antibodies: REACT-2 Study of Self-Testing in Nonhealthcare Key Workers](#)

Journal: Open Forum Infectious Diseases

Publication date: 2021

A greater proportion of this nonhealthcare key worker cohort showed evidence of previous infection with SARS-CoV-2 than the general population at 6.0% (95% CI, 5.8-6.1) after the first wave in England. The high acceptability and usability reported by participants and similar performance of self-test and nurse-performed LFIA indicate that the self-test LFIA is fit for purpose for home testing in occupational and community prevalence studies.

### [Mental health of respiratory nurses working during the Covid-19 crisis](#)

Journal: Nursing Times

Publication date: 2021

Regression analysis showed that younger nurses with less experience had higher levels of anxiety and depression and had lower resilience. Participants highlighted concerns about the working environment, PPE, the quality-of-care individuals were able to deliver, and impacts on mental health to nurses and their families.

### [Levels of resilience, anxiety and depression in nurses working in respiratory clinical areas during the COVID pandemic](#)

Journal: Respiratory Medicine

Publication date: 2020

This cohort experienced significant levels of anxiety and depression, with moderate to high levels of resilience. Support mechanisms and interventions need to be put in place to support all nurses during pandemic outbreaks, particularly younger or less experienced staff.

### [Implications for COVID-19: A systematic review of nurses' experiences of working in acute care hospital settings during a respiratory pandemic](#)

Journal: International Journal of Nursing Studies

Publication date: 2020

This systematic review emphasises that nurses' require Governments, policy makers and nursing groups to actively engage in supporting nurses, both during and following a pandemic or epidemic. Without this, nurses are likely to experience substantial psychological issues that can lead to burnout and loss from the nursing workforce.

### Workforce perspectives and experiences

#### "I Just Know if I Keep Going, I'll End Up Hating Nursing." Lived Experiences of Emergency Nurses Three Years Into the Global COVID-19 Pandemic

Source: Journal of Emergency Nursing

Publication date: 2024

As the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic continues globally, the personal and professional pressure on health care workers continues to accumulate. Literature suggests that as the pandemic evolves, nurses are experiencing increased levels of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress, ultimately leading them to voice intentions to leave the profession, if they have not done so already.

#### Interstitial lung disease and specialist palliative care access: a healthcare professionals survey

Journal: BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care

Publication date: 2022

A survey study of healthcare professionals, including respiratory physicians, interstitial lung disease nurse specialists, respiratory nurse specialists and palliative care physicians, was conducted using a questionnaire, entailing 17 questions. Most respondents felt that enhancing access to specialist palliative care services would benefit patients. However, palliative care and respiratory care should not be considered as mutually exclusive and multidisciplinary approach is recommended.

#### Renaming COPD exacerbations: the UK respiratory nursing perspective

Journal: BMC Pulmonary Medicine

Publication date: 2021

Respiratory nurses in the UK report that the term 'exacerbation' is not fit for purpose for patients, and alternatives should be sought.

#### Bearing witness to the challenges of breathlessness

Journal: British Journal of Community Nursing

Publication date: 2021

This paper seeks to identify bearing witness to suffering and vulnerability as components of emotional labour in the context of the CRNS role. It highlights the need for research to explore the experience of CRNSs and insights into supporting people with long-term breathlessness. It is more likely that well-supported staff can provide sustained, supportive care to patients living with breathlessness.

#### Evaluation of the Perceived Barriers and Facilitators to Timely Extubation of Critically Ill Adults: An Interprofessional Survey

Journal: Worldviews Evidence Based Nursing

Publication date: 2021

The relative importance of these contributing factors varied by profession, with nurses and RTs often perceiving them as being more influential to the MV liberation process than MDs and NPs. Nurses and RTs had similar responses to many of the survey questions, including systems issues (deferring to daylight team, including physician staffing) and clinician comfort level (bedside provider not comfortable or attending preferences).

#### Respiratory Nurses Have Positive Attitudes But Lack Confidence in Advance Care Planning for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Online Survey [New Zealand and Australia]

Journal: Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing  
Publication date: 2021

The 112 participating respiratory nurses had substantial knowledge and positive attitudes regarding ACP in COPD; however, they lacked confidence and clarity regarding their role. Despite advances in end-of-life care provision for chronic disease, well-established barriers remained (inadequate training, fear of distressing patients, and time), and discussion triggers were still linked to acute deterioration, diagnosis of severe disease, and patient initiation. Better articulating the role of the respiratory nurse in ACP and building capacity and confidence within this workforce may improve ACP access for people living with COPD.

### [Nursing perspectives and strategies in patients with respiratory insufficiency \[Norway\]](#)

Journal: Nursing in Critical Care  
Publication date: 2020

Participants' perspectives fell into two main themes: "nurse competence" and "the art of balancing." "Nurse competence" incorporated the sub-themes "observations and assessments," "to make decisions," and "collaboration." The theme 'the art of balancing' incorporated the sub-themes "nursing interventions," "patients feeling safe," and "patient participation."

### [Qualitative study of practices and challenges when making a diagnosis of asthma in primary care](#)

Journal: NJP Primary Care Respiratory Medicine  
Publication date: 2019

We explored diagnostic approaches and challenges faced by general practitioners (GPs) and practice nurses when making a diagnosis of asthma. Fifteen healthcare professionals (10 GPs and 5 nurses) of both sexes, different ages and varying years of experience who worked in NHS Lothian, Scotland were interviewed using in-depth, semi-structured qualitative

interviews. To improve diagnostic decision-making, participants suggested regular educational opportunities and better diagnostic tools. In the future, standardising the clinical assessment made by healthcare practitioners should be supported by improved access to diagnostic services for additional investigation(s) and clarification of diagnostic uncertainty.

### [Irish Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialists' Experiences of Their Role: A Qualitative Exploration](#)

Journal: Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Publication date: 2018

Three themes were identified within the findings: "multidimensional role," "interacting and collaborating," and "advancing the role."

## Competency Frameworks

### [A professional development framework for respiratory nursing](#)

British Thoracic Society, 2020

The document has been developed deliberately to address generic respiratory nurse competencies for adult nursing, and reflects the four pillars of practice of a Nurse Specialist (2) and MultiProfessional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice(3)

### [The Respiratory Service Framework](#)

Primary Care Respiratory Society

The Respiratory Service Framework (RSF) seeks to demonstrate what excellence is – and how it may be delivered at a population level and across the patient pathway. It will help those seeking to design a patient focussed respiratory service working across all sectors of out of hospital care. It is applicable to those delivering care at PCN or ICS level.

### Fit to care

Primary Care Respiratory Society

As a busy healthcare professional, your own professional development can be the last thing on your mind when you are trying to deliver high quality care to your patients as well as dealing with all the everyday matters of working in primary and community care. However, it is the responsibility of every healthcare professional to ensure that they are trained appropriately to be able to deliver the management and care they are required to perform.

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