

Joint Working EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Published on www.astrazeneca.co.uk

Joint Working between AstraZeneca UK Ltd and University Hospitals of Liverpool Group

Document Number 406-1-ES

Date of Preparation Nov 2025

Project title	Cheshire & Merseyside Joint Working Agreement - CLEAR Primary Care
Aims and Objectives	<p>This project aims to enhance asthma care through identification of patients who may benefit from timely referral to severe asthma services. The secondary aim is to improve long term sustainability of improvements in asthma care by implementing streamlined referral pathways and developing a business case to ensure long term quality improvement is embedded. This project aims to increase efficiency in the severe asthma system and increase the number of appropriate referrals for severe asthma services for uncontrolled high risk asthma patients, during the duration of this project, by: Proactive identification of uncontrolled severe asthma patients and review, in primary care, of approximately 1,700 patients. Increase quantity of appropriate patients referred to severe asthma specialist from Primary Care. Improve quality of referral to severe asthma specialist from primary care, and reduce rejected referral rate to under 5%. Increase initiation of appropriate therapy where appropriate to do so. It is expected that approximately 298 additional patients will be initiated on biologic therapy during the course of this project. Reduce overall exposure to Oral Corticosteroid. NB. This number will be reviewed at steering groups compared to benchmark figures that will be calculated at the start of the project. Supporting the education of approximately 200 primary care clinicians involved with severe asthma care, to increase diagnosis, time to diagnosis, and quality of referral to severe asthma services.</p>
Anticipated benefits	<p>Expected benefits for patients, NHS and AstraZeneca as follows. Patients: Timely Identification: Patients will be correctly identified as candidates for alternative treatment options for severe asthma, enhancing their overall care experience. Optimised Treatment: Medicines will be initiated and optimised by specialists in accordance with both local and national guidelines, ensuring patients receive the most appropriate care. Fewer Hospital Visits: Early, customised interventions will likely lead to a reduction in non-elective admissions and readmissions, easing the burden on patients. Improved Care Quality: Patients may experience significant improvements in the quality</p>

	<p>of care they receive, potentially enhancing their quality of life. Enhanced Professional Support: Improved teamwork among healthcare professionals can provide more comprehensive support to patients, helping avoid unscheduled hospital episodes. NHS: Decreased Waiting Times: The project aims to reduce waiting times for specialist consultations, improving patient flow. Fewer Outpatient Appointments: There may be a decrease in the need for outpatient appointments for some patients with severe asthma conditions. Improved Care Quality: The overall quality of care for patients with severe asthma will be enhanced. Increased Competency: Clinical teams, particularly in primary care, will benefit from increased competency through support, guidance, and advice from specialists like Helen James and Chrstine Perry who will be actively working with practices during the project. Reduced Unplanned Admissions: In the longer term, the project is expected to improve patient flow and reduce the total number of unplanned admissions and inpatient bed days. AstraZeneca: Align with Medical Mission: The project supports AstraZeneca’s strategy to improve the lives of asthma patients, including those with severe asthma, by promoting early identification and optimal treatment. Optimised Medicine Use: The initiative supports the optimisation of medicines for the treatment of severe asthma. While the prescribing of AstraZeneca medicines may increase, the decision to prescribe will remain clinician-led in accordance with local protocols and guidelines. Share Best Practices: A successful project with demonstrable outcomes will allow AstraZeneca to share best practices across the UK healthcare system. Enhanced Reputation: The project is anticipated to improve AstraZeneca's corporate reputation and trust amongst the NHS and patients.</p>
Timeline	The project will commence on the 15 Dec 2025 and will continue for a duration of 12 months.
References	[References]