

2. SERVICE FRAMEWORK FOR RESPIRATORY HEALTH AND WELLBEING – BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

2.1 Introduction

The aim of this framework is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Northern Ireland, reduce inequalities and improve the quality of health and social care in relation to respiratory disease, recognising that achievement of this aim goes beyond traditional HSC boundaries and is strongly influenced by population/individual attitudes and behaviours, and the contribution of other sectors.

The service framework for respiratory health and wellbeing sets standards in relation to the prevention, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and palliative care of individuals/communities who currently have or are at greater risk of developing respiratory disease. Recognising that several diseases can co-exist, share common risk factors and can adversely impact on prognosis, this service framework includes consideration of:

Standards for specific conditions

- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Asthma in Adults
- Asthma in Children and Young People
- Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) in Adults
- Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) in Children and Young People
- Obstructive Sleep Apnoea / Hypopnoea Syndrome in Adults
- Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome in Children and Young People
- Long Term Ventilation in Children and Young People
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Bronchiectasis
- Tuberculosis
- Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD)

Standards relating to all conditions

- Nebuliser Treatment
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Transitional Care for Adolescents with Chronic Respiratory Disease
- Lung Transplantation
- Acute Oxygen Therapy
- Social and Emotional Support
- Information

The care of patients with cancers of the respiratory tract will not be addressed in this framework, but will be addressed in the Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care, which is under development.

This is a three year service framework and was not designed to be fully comprehensive of all respiratory conditions. Those involved have highlighted the most important areas for the health and wellbeing of people with respiratory disease. It will be subject to ongoing review as new evidence becomes available.

Alongside this document work is ongoing on the development of an implementation plan which will set out key service components which are essential in relation to the effective implementation of this framework.

2.2 Process for developing the service framework for respiratory wellbeing

The development of service frameworks is overseen by a multidisciplinary programme board, which is jointly chaired by the Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Secretary of the DHSSPS. In addition, the respiratory framework has been developed by the Northern Ireland Respiratory Forum, with representation from all aspects of the service and service users and carers as well as the voluntary sector. The Forum was tasked to develop a respiratory service framework is accountable, through the project lead, to the Departmental Service Framework Programme Board. The full membership of the project team is set out in Appendix 1.

2.3 Equality screening

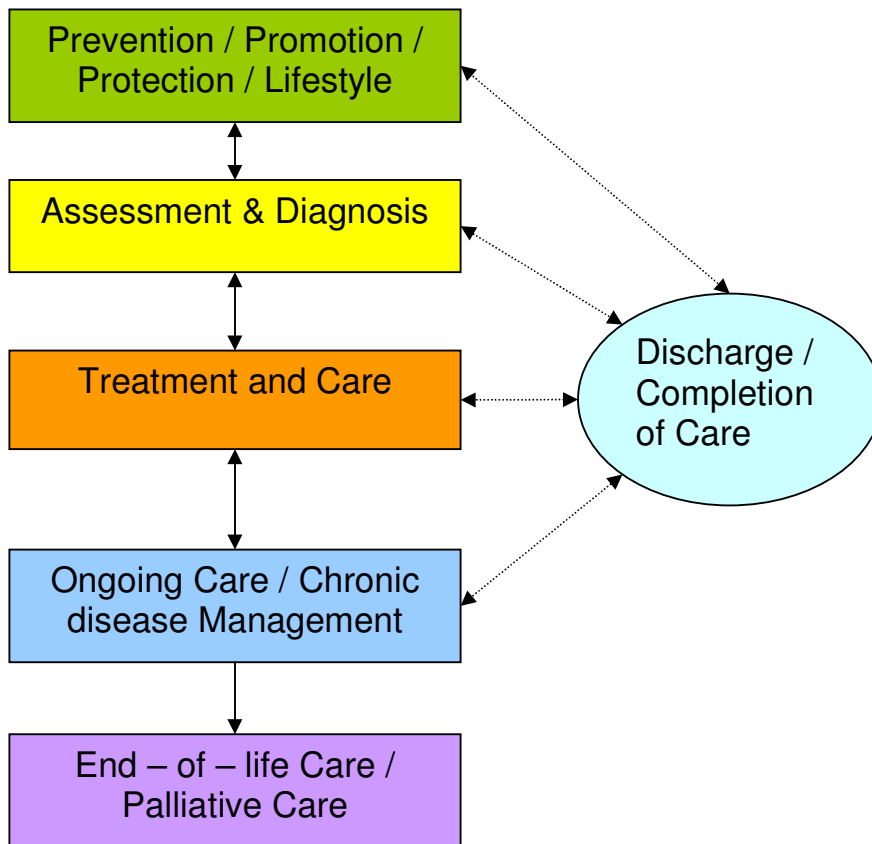
The Department's equality screening of the Respiratory Service Framework was informed by the consultation process. The screening process did not identify any adverse impacts on any of the groups covered by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act.

2.4 How to read the rest of this document

Each service framework follows an individual's journey, from prevention through to end-of-life care, taking into account the different health and social care needs of children and young people and adults.

Each standard sets out the evidence base and rationale for the development of the standard, the impact of the standard on quality improvement as well as the performance indicators that will be used to measure that the standard has been achieved within a specific timeframe. The standards are colour coded for ease of reference e.g. standards related to assessment and diagnosis will be yellow.

Flowchart 1 – Template for development of service frameworks



The rest of this document is divided into the following sections:

- **Section 3** explains why there is a need to develop a service framework for respiratory health and wellbeing and describes some of the key risk factors influencing the development of respiratory disease;
- **Section 4** sets out standards in relation to communication and personal and public involvement which will be relevant to a number of service frameworks under development;
- **Section 5** sets out standards in relation to health promotion and prevention which will be relevant to a number of service frameworks under development;
- **Section 6** sets out standards in relation to specific conditions associated with respiratory disease such as COPD, asthma, pneumonia etc; and,

- **Section 7** sets out standards for people who require supportive, palliative or end of life care which will be relevant to a number of service frameworks under development.