Respiratory Dashboard Supportive Guidance

**Metric 1 - High dose Inhaled Corticosteroid Prescribing (ICS) items as a % of all ICS items**

The ‘Practices within CCG’ graph shows the variation between practices within each CCG. Practices on the right hand side of the graph prescribe a higher proportion of inhalers from the high dose steroid category, and would potentially benefit from a review of prescribing.
Metric 2 - Identifying the proportion of patients receiving 5 or fewer steroid inhalers, including ICS LABA products.

This metric is designed to identify where adherence to preventer therapy could be improved. Patients on the left hand side of the graph are potentially not using their preventer therapy frequently enough to optimise their treatment.

Metric 3 - Prescribing of montelukast

This metric shows the uptake of the NICE recommendation of a 4-8 week trial of montelukast plus low dose ICS if newly diagnosed asthma is not controlled by a low dose ICS inhaler alone (before adding a LABA). Practices on the left hand side of the graph have a lower proportion of patients who are prescribed montelukast.
Metric 4 - Prescribing frequency of prednisolone 5mg tablets.

This metric shows the number of patients who are receiving prescriptions for prednisolone tablets in quantities less than or equal to 60 tablets. Not all of the prescriptions identified in this list will be used as a rescue pack, but all of the patients identified are being treated with respiratory medications as defined in the drug list in ePACT2.

The graph allows the user to highlight how many prescription items have been issued over the last 12 months. In this example we have chosen to look at how many patients are being prescribed over 13 rescue packs in 12 months. Practices on the right hand side of the chart are issuing over 13 rescue packs to the greatest number of patients, although this might reflect the size of the practice.
**Metric 5 - Prescribing of smoking cessation products inc. nicotine replacement (NRT), varenicline and bupropion.**

Many CCGs advise GP practices not to prescribe smoking cessation products, as they are no longer commissioned to provide them. The data reflects this advice, as the number of smoking cessation items per 1000 recorded smokers is relatively low across the country.

**Metric 6 - Excess SABA prescribing.**

This metric identifies the proportion of patients prescribed preventer inhalers who were also prescribed 6 or more SABA inhalers. Practices at the right hand side of the graph have higher proportions of patients who are potentially over-using their SABA inhalers. The number of patients for each practice can also be viewed by using the drop-down menu within the graph.
Metric 7 - Patients on triple therapy

Triple therapy is the lowest value intervention according to the value pyramid developed by the London Respiratory Network. For both COPD and asthma, patients receiving triple therapy should be reviewed at least annually with a view to stepping down treatment if appropriate. Practices on the right hand side of this graph have the greatest proportion of patients who are prescribed triple therapy.