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| **Asthma presentations to the Mater Emergency Department** |
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| **Introduction/Aim:**  Asthma was the 10th most common presentation to Mater Hospital Emergency in the 2022 flu season. An audit of patients presenting to the Emergency Department with asthma was conducted to determine whether patients are receiving standard of care and appropriate follow-up arrangements.  **Methods:**  A retrospective audit of patients triaged with asthma at Mater Hospital Brisbane Public Emergency Department between June to August 2022 was reviewed. Clinical data was extracted from electronic medical records.  **Results:**  114 were diagnosed with an exacerbation of asthma, with 109 having a pre-existing diagnosis. 21% were on inhaled corticosteroids (ICS), and 20% had an Asthma Action Plan before presentation. A documented pre-existing asthma action plan significantly increased the likelihood of steroid initiation prior-to ED Presentation (p=0.00). 70% were thought to be infection triggered, with 25% positive on viral testing. 31% were admitted. Whilst 79% were treated with oral corticosteroids, 74% short-acting bronchodilator only 27% were discharged with ICS and 14% received an asthma action plan. 16% re-presented to Mater emergency in the next 12 months with asthma symptoms. Only 1 patient was referred to asthma clinic.  **Conclusion:**  Asthma is a common cause for emergency presentations, which, where untreated can result in significant morbidity and mortality. This audit found that the majority of presentations were not on appropriate preventer therapy, and there is an over-reliance on short-acting bronchodilators and oral systemic corticosteroids on presentation. Referrals to specialist asthma clinics were low, including in patients representing to the Emergency Department within 12 months. There is significant scope to streamline management, including clinical and referral pathways.  **Grant Support:**  None |