

Supporting FeNO Device Implementation

What is a FeNO device?

FeNO (fractional exhaled nitric oxide) devices are a novel medical technology used to aid the diagnosis of asthma.



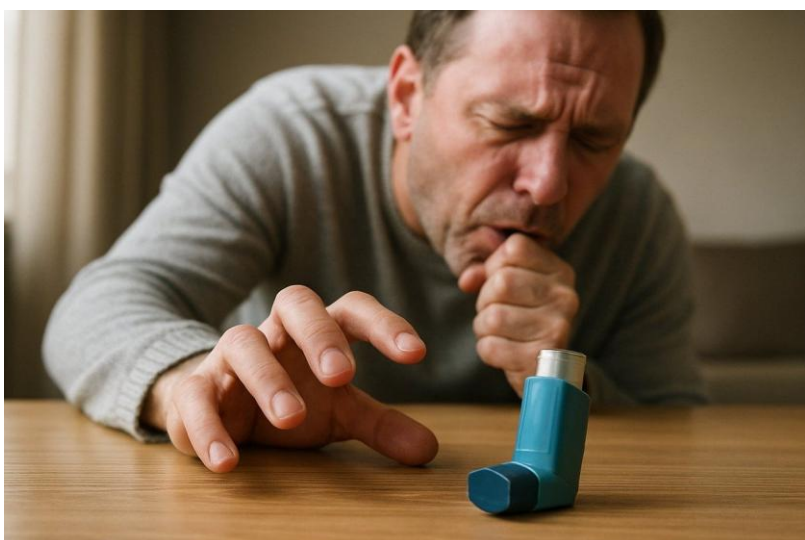
Image of Bedfont® NObreath® FeNO Monitor from Numed Healthcare. Source: www.numed.co.uk

What are the benefits of FeNO?

- Quick & easy to perform compared with conventional lung function tests such as spirometry
- Enabling quicker diagnosis and commencing correct treatment sooner
- Allows monitoring of patient response to treatment and patient compliance
- Recommended in national asthma guidelines ([NICE NG245 November 2024](#))

Varied FeNO use in Dorset

Initial FeNO implementation took place March 2022 to March 2023. Review of the impact of implementation found varied FeNO use across Dorset with concerns that not all patients were benefitting from FeNO.



How is the NHS Dorset Innovation Service supporting improved FeNO use in Dorset?

The NHS Dorset Innovation Service has undertaken a scoping review of the FeNO practices, experiences and opinions in three Dorset Primary Care Networks (PCNs). The aim being to use the information gained to inform what actions would be best placed to improve FeNO use across the whole of the county.

What did the scoping review involve?

Semi-structured interviews completed with:

- 12 GP practice nurses using FeNO devices
- 4 PCN respiratory specialist nurses



Some of the key findings included:

- Very positive staff attitudes towards FeNO
- Positive impact of FeNO observable through use and reinforces patient & cost benefits
- Cost (device & consumables) identified as primary barrier to use
- Need to adjust perception of who can perform FeNO – not just the practice nurse
- Training and peer support is fundamental
- Role and influence of the GPs / senior respiratory champion is central in supporting further FeNO implementation
- Coding accuracy key for activity reports

What's next?

The findings of the scoping review have been presented to and discussed with Dorset Respiratory Network members and the agreed next step actions include:

- Draft model FeNO service framework and share with GP practices not using FeNO
- Develop and deliver training on FeNO use for the monitoring of asthma patients
- Explore FeNO activity coding pathways in the Community Diagnostic Centres
- To ensure there is a respiratory champion within each PCN in Dorset

