

# Community Respiratory Nursing Service News

## Autumn 2020



*From left to right: Karen Willsman, Clare Lawrence, Louise Weatherall and Teresa Kilkenny*

### The Winter Wellness Issue

Respiratory patients need extra support in the cold winter months, and especially this year. The Integrated Respiratory Service is available to help your general practice team with your patients.

- The Better Breathing Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programme continues to take referrals. The team has developed an alternative to group programmes using telehealth initiatives to engage participants.
- Complex respiratory patients that may benefit from a referral (via ERMS) to the Respiratory Nursing Service.
- We can help with Blue Cards and Acute Plans.
- Some practices may have received a letter about their respiratory patients who have had frequent admissions

### COPD – managing acute and mild exacerbations

General Practice has received details on how to manage and support vulnerable respiratory patients. This includes:

- Flu vaccinations;
- Acute Plans and Personalised Care Plans,
- Blue Cards, and
- back pocket prescriptions.

If the Community Respiratory Service can assist, please get in touch.

### Integrated Respiratory Nursing Service (IRNS)

The IRNS continues to take referrals. If you have patients who might benefit from a specialist respiratory nursing intervention, please send a referral via ERMS. Although we are unable to assess patients at home, the team will continue to provide a telephone service until we are able to re-commence home visits. As we're heading into winter and we're in the middle of a pandemic, it's more important than ever to help your respiratory patients stay well in their own homes.

### Blue Cards & Acute Plans

These simple, 'low tech' cards are useful for patients, community nursing and ambulance staff. Planning in advance what your patients need to do during an exacerbation can help reduce anxiety and may prevent an unnecessary hospital admission.

In addition, Acute Plans are helpful for clinical teams who may be managing your patient's care in an acute situation. Funding is available to assist your team in putting an Acute Plan in place for your respiratory patients, or contact one of our nursing team to help.

Templates and links to plans can be found on Community HealthPathways.

If you require more Blue Cards please call CCN on 03 353 9973.