

MEDIA RELEASE
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A fresh approach to asthma management

With Tuesday, 3rd May marking the World Health Organisation's *World Asthma Day*, it's an opportune time to follow up on the progress of the *Giving Asthma Support to Patients* (GASP) program in western Sydney.

As featured in October, GASP was launched in partnership with the Asthma Foundation Queensland and NSW. The pilot program centres around the up-skilling of primary care nurses in the management of asthma patients through a web based training tool. Complementing evidence-based accredited training, the GASP tool uses a sophisticated set of rules and logic, handling various combinations of lung function, asthma control and risk to develop individualised patient asthma care plans.

Since the launch and following on from a series of training workshops for participating practices, 27 nurses across western Sydney have now been trained and accredited to implement the tool across the region. The outcomes from the pilot phase will assist practitioners in better managing asthma patients, with the aiming being to recruit 300 patients into the research study by the end of June.

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About WentWest

WentWest's focus on providing better health care in the community was strengthened with its appointment as a Tranche 1 Medicare Local in July 2011 to now operating as the Western Sydney Primary Health Network. WentWest has built on its experience as a Division of General Practice in supporting GPs and their practices, connecting health services to meet local needs, and striving for better health outcomes for western Sydney.

The population living in western Sydney is culturally, linguistically and socio-economically diverse, and we also have the largest urban Aboriginal community in Australia. WentWest works closely with doctors, allied health professionals, the Western Sydney Local Health District and many others to improve the coordination of local health services for patients and their families