

The Allergy Manifesto

#itstimetotakeallergyseriously



Our key asks

1

An allergy nurse and dietitian in every Integrated Care System to ensure those living with allergies can access specialist care. Specialist allergy services should not be subject to a postcode lottery which risks jeopardising the care and support of those living with allergies.

2

A national register that will consolidate patient data across the country to unify and protect health data for both patients and health workers to easily track allergy diagnoses. Accurate data is vital for the commissioning of adequate services and to ensure the safeguarding of people with allergies.

3

The removal of prescription costs for those living with allergies to address the additional costs people face when managing their allergies.

Voices of the allergic community

“Children with allergies need regular, reliable, consistent advice and support from a knowledgeable and informed healthcare practitioner. This can immensely improve the quality of their day-to-day life and that of their families”

L Saxon – Mother to a child with allergies

“I have a daughter with allergies to tree nuts, peanuts, legumes, dairy, soy, egg, kiwi and we had to pay to go privately to see a paediatrician as her symptoms were dismissed/ignored by our local GP. Allergy care should be accessible to all who require help”

A Luc – Mother to a child with multiple allergies

“Allergy families have enough to deal with, trying to keep safe, navigating a world that isn't always supportive of people living with allergies, keeping on top of medication, dealing with the anxiety that arises from having to live this way - being impacted financially - and disproportionately - feels like an extra smack in the face we just don't need. I have no doubt that other families will feel the same.”

Family member of someone living with a food allergy.

To learn more about why our manifesto asks are important for your constituents who are living with one or more allergic conditions, please visit our website at www.allergyuk.org or get in touch with our policy officer Daniella Rotimi at Daniella.rotimi@allergyuk.org.

Importance of action

1. An allergy nurse and dietitian in every Integrated Care System

More primary care-based allergy nurses will improve timeliness of care, reduce unnecessary burden on GPs and within secondary care, whilst delivering better patient outcomes.



95%

Allergy UK's trial for a nurse-led allergy clinic model in Scotland resulted in 95% of patients being fully managed at primary care level without needing onward referral to a specialist.

Patients experienced just 4-8 weeks wait to access the care they needed to

4-8 weeks



manage their allergies in the nurse led allergy clinic model versus 6-18 months, the typical wait time to see an NHS allergist following a GP referral.



Holistic care

Uniting medicinal and nutritional expertise provides allergic patients comprehensive holistic care for better outcomes in relation to managing their allergies.

2. A national register that will consolidate patient data across the country

The absence of accurate prevalence data and centralised diagnosis tracking for allergic disease leaves the UK health system severely impacted in planning and resourcing for the rising tide of patients.



There are only approximately 40 adult allergy consultants available nationally to serve the over 10 million estimated adult allergy sufferers across the UK despite the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases predicting 50% of all Europeans will have a chronic allergy by 2025.

AUK FOI data evidences most English ICBs failing to record local allergy diagnosis data

only 7%



needed to determine the required service provision for their region. Only 7% of responding ICBs held data on allergy diagnosis of patients.



National register

A National Allergy Registry can drive data-based decisions to proactively future-proof UK allergy services instead of reacting post-peak.

3. The removal of prescription costs for those living with allergies

Including allergic disease in the medical conditions eligible for free NHS prescription access promotes equal treatment for managing this chronic, life-impacting illness.



Prescription costs

Prescription costs restrict allergy patients' access to required medications, limit adherence and prevent flexible trials to pinpoint effective personalised care.



300m

Medication non-adherence can also result in more costly unplanned hospital admissions and additional healthcare costs for treating complications. This lack of adherence contributes to an estimated £300 million in wasted medicine across the NHS.



£3,000

Special foods, travel to specialist appointments and testing already make people with allergies incur significant costs which prescription fees compound. One estimate puts annual costs at just over £3,000 per food-allergic child.