

The Allergy Manifesto

#itstimetotakeallergyseriously



Our key asks

1

An allergy nurse and dietitian at primary care level for each UK health region to ensure those living with allergies can access care from a specialist clinician. Specialist allergy services should be offered universally and not dependant on where you live.

2

A national register to consolidate patient data across the country, unifying health data for patients and health workers so allergy diagnoses can be easily tracked. Accurate data is vital for knowing what services need to be commissioned 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 our manifesto asks and how to raise this issue with your MP, please visit our website at www.allergyuk.org or get in touch with our policy officer Daniella Rotimi at Daniella.rotimi@allergyuk.org.

The importance of action

1. An allergy nurse and dietitian in primary care settings (GP level)

Having an allergy nurse and dietitian service as part of GP services will improve how quickly care can be given, reduce unnecessary burden on GP and consultant appointments and deliver 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 allergy care required this way, compared to a typical 6-18 months wait to see an NHS allergist following a GP referral.

4-8 weeks



20m people

There are approximately 80 allergy specialist consultants available for the estimated 20 million people living with allergies in the UK.

It is predicted by 2025, 50% of all Europeans will have a chronic allergy by 2025, meaning the already disproportionate ratio of allergy consultants to patients will continue to grow.

2. A national register to consolidate patient data across the country

The absence of accurate data collection for allergic disease limits the ability of the NHS to accurately plan services for the rising number of patients. The overall rates of allergy could be much higher than is officially reported.

only 7%

Data obtained from an Allergy UK Freedom of Information request shows that most English health boards are failing to record local allergy diagnosis data (only 7% had this data) This data is needed to determine the appropriate services needed for their region. A National Allergy Registry can drive data-evidenced decisions to proactively future-proof UK allergy services instead of reacting once they reach a tipping point.

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 condition recognises the serious life impacting nature of allergic disease.



Costs

Prescription costs restrict allergy patients' access to required medications, limit how often patients will take them and prevent flexible trials of medicines by patients to land on the right personalised care.



£3,000

When someone does not take the medicine they need, this can result in more costly unplanned hospital admissions and additional healthcare costs for treating complications. 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.

Uniting medicinal and nutritional expertise provides allergic patients with comprehensive, holistic care to support allergy management.



Holistic care