Course content:
This course is aimed at healthcare professionals and healthcare support workers who participate in the delivery and management of care for people with asthma, their families and carers. Successful learners will demonstrate appropriate skills and knowledge in the diagnosis, treatment and management of asthma and using current clinical guidelines will be able to suggest, initiate and vary treatment in response to assessment of individual clinical needs. Learners of this asthma course will be able to tailor their learning to suit their clinical situation. Assessment will incorporate the key issues in asthma management and will enable learners to understand asthma in relation to their patient population.

Knowledge and understanding:
Successful learners will typically be able to:
1. Discuss the pathophysiology of asthma, relating this to predisposing factors for asthma, choice of treatment strategies and management;
2. Discuss the tools available to assess the impact of asthma on quality of life;
3. Evaluate current guidelines and evidence relating to the pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of people with asthma, to underpin decision making in a range of clinical situations including management of deteriorating asthma.

Skills and attributes:
Successful learners will typically be able to:
1. Discuss the key issues in history-taking and clinical assessment in relation to diagnosis;
2. Discuss the key issues in the ongoing management of people with asthma and evaluate and modify care appropriately in response to such assessment;
3. Evaluate the range of treatment options available for use in asthma management, including recognition of deteriorating asthma and recommend appropriate therapeutic interventions or referrals;
4. Discuss the psychosocial impact of having asthma on the individual and their family and suggest strategies to support patients and families in self-management of their disease.