



National Asthma Education Programme
SA Certificate Course in Asthma

What is the National Asthma Education Programme

The NAEP is a non-profit organisation that aims to disseminate impartial information about asthma diagnosis and treatment to health professionals and the South African public. It is part of an international organisation/drive which subscribes to management guidelines set out by GINA (Global Initiative for Asthma), SATS (South African Thoracic Society) and ALLSA (Allergy Society of Asthma).

Its objectives are threefold:

- I. To raise awareness among patients, health professionals and the public that asthma is a serious chronic disease;
- II. To ensure that symptoms of asthma are recognised by patients, families, and the public, and that appropriate diagnosis is made by health professionals; and
- III. To ensure effective control of asthma by encouraging a partnership among patients, physicians and other health professionals, using appropriate, modern treatment and education programs.



The SA Certificate in Asthma Care: an overview

The SA Certificate in Asthma Care is a six-month learning course which runs from March each year.

The course is widely applicable to a variety of personnel but is particularly useful for Primary Healthcare professionals (such as community health nurses) who come into frequent contact with asthma patients.

We have trained nursing staff from professional nurses and upwards, pharmacists, physiotherapists, clinical technologists and pharmaceutical sales reps. We have also trained many GP's with a specific interest in, and need for, asthma training. Candidates are accepted from both the Public and Private Health sectors.

We have also train healthcare professionals from neighbouring countries and hope to see more such students in the future.

What is the course comprised of?

The course is comprised of a self-assessment study workbook, written assignments, two revision days and a final assessment at the end of the course.

Study materials:

A seven-module workbook, along with a training DVD, is provided to students. They are required to submit a written assignment at the end of Modules Five and Seven.

Revision days:

Two revision days are conducted during the course of the year, at various centers around the country.

Final assessment:

At the end of the course the students are required to complete an assessment. This is comprised of:

- I. A written practice management paper;
- II. An oral examination; and
- III. A series of short questions.

The contents of the course

The study workbook is broken up into these

Modules:

[Module 1:](#)

Asthma basics.

[Module 2:](#)

Diagnosis of asthma.

[Module 3:](#)

Special investigations in the diagnosis of asthma.

[Module 4:](#)

Management of asthma.

[Module 5:](#)

Drugs and delivery systems.

[Module 6:](#)

Special situations, including:

- Occupational asthma;
- Asthma in the elderly;
- Asthma in pregnancy; and
- Asthma in sports and exercise

[Module 7:](#)

Asthma education and setting up an asthma clinic.

The process and costs

The cost for the course is R4 000 per person, with a deposit of R1 000 required upon registration.

Once the deposit has been received, the study workbook and DVD are posted to the student, along with relevant asthma literature.

The students are advised during the period of their study as to the dates and venues of their revision days, and advised of the dates and venues for their final assessments.

Questions and answers