

BAFHT Nurse Educator Explanation of Services

The role of BAFHT Nurse Educators is to provide education and support for disease prevention, disease management, health promotion, and health care system navigation. BAFHT Nurse Educators work with your primary care provider (physician/nurse practitioner) to offer a collaborative approach to care. By using a shared Electronic Medical Record, your BAFHT provider(s) and primary care provider can access your health information and communicate about your care.

We strive to create an environment of trust, safety and meaningful connection with our patients. We understand how care rooted in compassion, curiosity and understanding can help people to heal and stay well.

Patients referred for Nurse Educator services will be contacted by a BAFHT administrative staff member to schedule an initial appointment. As a courtesy to your provider and other patients waiting to access our services, we ask that you provide 24-hour notice of cancellation when unable to attend your appointment. This notice allows us to offer your appointment to another patient. As all programs and services offered by the BAFHT are funded by Ontario Health, there is no direct charge to patients to access.

Please be aware that due to privacy limitations, we do not communicate patient health information by e-mail. If you need to contact us, please call our office.

Respiratory Health

The role of the Certified Respiratory Educator (Registered Nurse or Respiratory Therapist) is to improve the health and quality of life of individuals living with respiratory disease, including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Asthma. As part of the Best Care Program, the educator will work with you to improve and prolong your quality of life, and to decrease hospital and emergency-room visits through ongoing support and care plan development.

The BAFHT Certified Respiratory Educator will work with you and other members of your healthcare team, providing education, assessment, treatment adjustment, monitoring, counselling, and care-coordination to help you meet your goals and manage your respiratory symptoms.

The most common reasons for referral to a BAFHT respiratory educator are for COPD, Asthma, and general symptom assessment.

Reason for Referral: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

In partnership with the Best Care COPD Program, the Certified Respiratory Educator (CRE) will provide assessment, education, and care plan development to individuals living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

The educator will take a thorough history, review your respiratory symptoms and offer suggestions for symptom management, assist with inhaler technique, complete spirometry testing, optimize inhaler therapy, and create a COPD action plan.

Patients can expect a 60-minute initial appointment, with 30-minute follow-up appointments scheduled every three to six months for the first year. After one year, follow-ups will be scheduled as needed based on your symptoms and respiratory concerns.

Reason for Referral: Asthma

In partnership with the Best Care Asthma Program, the Certified Respiratory Educator (CRE) will provide assessment, education, and care plan development to individuals living with Asthma.

The educator will take a thorough history, review your respiratory symptoms and offer suggestions for symptom management, assist with inhaler technique, complete spirometry testing, optimize inhaler therapy, and create an Asthma Action Plan.

Patients can expect a 60-minute initial appointment, with 30-minute follow-up appointments as needed to assess any change in inhaler therapy or symptom control.

Reason for Referral: Assessment of shortness of breath, cough, or other respiratory symptoms

Individuals experiencing increased shortness of breath, cough, or other respiratory symptoms, or who are at risk of COPD, can be referred to the program by their primary care provider or through self-referral. A thorough history of respiratory concerns and spirometry testing will be completed to assess for any underlying respiratory disease. Follow-up will be arranged on an individual basis, and recommendations for treatment will be discussed with your primary care provider

Patients can expect a 60-minute initial appointment, with 30-minute follow-up appointments as needed.