Use of NHS services

Box 1

• During their last asthma attack 87 (45%) of the 195 patients died without seeking medical assistance or before

emergency medical care could be provided

- Of patients who died 112 (57%) were not recorded as being under specialist supervision during the 12 months before
- There was a history of prior admission for asthma in 90 of
- 190 cases (47%)

  Nineteen (10%) of the 195 died within 28 days of discharge
- from hospital following treatment for asthma

   At least 40 (21%) of the 195 people who died had attended an emergency department with asthma at least once in the

previous year, and of these 23 had attended twice or more