

FAQs for Clean Air Academy

The FAQs are split into General Questions about the course and platform, and FAQs about the course content – air pollution, and how to share this information with colleagues and patients.

General Questions

- **What is the Clean Air Academy?**
The Clean Air Academy is an online learning platform that educates healthcare professionals about air quality, pollution prevention, and sustainable practices.
- **Who can join the Clean Air Academy?**
Healthcare professionals, including students, interested in understanding air quality and the effects of air pollution on patient health are welcome to join.
- **Is there a fee for accessing the courses?**
The course is free of charge.
- **What types of modules are offered?**
There are seven modules in total. Modules 1-4 are general modules around air pollution, its causes and how to reduce impacts on health. Three of the modules cover the impact on Respiratory, Maternity and Paediatric patients more specifically.
- **How long do the modules take to complete?**
Each module takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, with a short questionnaire at the end of each module.
- **Do I need to complete them all at once?**
You do not need to complete them all at once. All of the modules are self-paced, allowing you to learn at your convenience, and you can complete the course in multiple sittings
- **Do you offer certificates upon course completion?**
Yes, participants receive a certificate of completion for the course they finish successfully.
- **Do the modules form part of CPD training?**
The modules are currently going through the certification process for CPD, and this is anticipated soon.

Technical Support

- **What if I encounter technical issues while using the platform?**
If you experience technical difficulties, please get in touch with our support team via the “Contact Us” section on the website.
- **What devices can I use to access the Clean Air Academy?**
The platform is accessible on various devices, including desktops, tablets, and smartphones. Ensure you have a stable internet connection for the best experience.
- **How do I enrol in a course?**
To enrol, create an account on the website and click the “Get Started” button to start the course.

FAQs for Clean Air Academy

FAQs on Course Content

1. How can you monitor air quality in your specific area?

- KentAir is a great, free resource developed for the Kent and Medway area. (kentair.org.uk)
- Defra UK Air Pollution Forecast

2. How do I tell my patients about the recommended changes in behaviour without alienating them?

- There is always a balance to the advice that we give patients, and changes in behaviour relating to air pollution are no exception. It could be quite easy to tell every patient to sell their car, cycle everywhere and immediately replace their gas cooker and boiler.
- Many people do not have the power, money or resources to necessarily change their situation in these examples. Many families feel tied to their cars because of the school run or commuting. In many instances it is worth choosing your battles, giving some simple advice and pointing them in the direction of more information, but also crucially listening to feedback from the patients on their situation.

3. Isn't air pollution just a problem in other countries?

- Air pollution levels in the UK are relatively low when compared to some other countries, particularly in the developing world. Unfortunately, it is still a big problem in the UK, causing up to 43,000 deaths each year, and contributing to many non-communicable diseases such as heart disease and stroke.

4. How can I help patients in difficult situations outside of their control?

- Unfortunately, it is very common that people impacted by poor quality housing or by living beside a major road can have worse health outcomes from air pollution. It may be possible to write on your patient's behalf, either to the council or homeowner to try and help change things. If no good response is made, you could write to their MP or local councillors. Not taking no for an answer!

5. How can I get this information to patients? I don't have time!

- The biggest feedback that healthcare staff give is that they are usually very pressed for time. The best we can do is pick the patients where the conversation about air pollution feels most relevant. As we practice, it becomes a normal thing that we ask about during our consultations, like alcohol or smoking. Making sure that our whole team of staff is educated about air pollution will help get that message across to more patients. Some staff groups get more time with each patient than others, e.g. some specialist nurses.