

## APPENDIX 6: RESEARCH GAPS

In the process of development of this guideline, the team found that there was insufficient evidence of adequate quality on a number of issues. These are listed below.

### ***Non-pharmaceutical management of chronic asthma***

There is a need for well operationalised research to determine how to effectively improve adherence to treatment and management regimes.

### ***Management of asthma in the Māori community***

More rigorously controlled studies are needed to determine the best approaches to improving the care and treatment of asthma in the Māori community.

### ***Non-pharmaceutical and complementary therapies***

- The extent and impact of the use in New Zealand of alternative and complementary therapies for asthma has yet to be determined
- There is a need for well operationalised research to determine the comparative and long term effects of immunotherapy
- Studies of particular complementary therapies (acupuncture; herbal remedies; homeopathy; hypnotism in susceptible subjects; and some breathing exercises) showed indications that more carefully controlled and targeted research on their use in asthma may be justified.

### ***Secondary prevention of asthma in adults***

Well operationalised research is needed to:

- determine the degree of benefit of barrier methods in adults with house dust mite allergic asthma
- identify any potential benefit of other secondary prevention measures in all adults with asthma.