

10.12 National Rollout of Virtual Pulmonary Rehabilitation

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Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) is a priority service for the National Clinical Programme for Respiratory (NCPR) in the management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Prior to March 2020, PR was routinely delivered in in-person in-hospital / health-centre settings. In March 2020, these services ceased to provide in-person PR due to the onset of COVID-19. NCPR aimed to provide services in line with the Models of Care for COPD and Asthma, while adhering to Public Health Guidance. The NCPR developed clinical guidance to support the delivery of online / virtual services, secured the appropriate clinical expertise to approve the guidance (through the Irish Thoracic Society) and worked with national professional bodies to support implementation of the guidance. Health Care Professionals who provided online PR identified factors that facilitated and those that challenged the online service delivery. Facilitators included: management and colleague support, prompt publication of the national clinical guidance document among several internal and external factors. Challenges included a range of technological and personal factors. NCPR are updating the national clinical guidance document, in line with current international clinical guidelines. NCPR are engaging with the Enhanced Community Care and eHealth Programmes regarding current and future provision and procurement.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare