

## 7.10 COPD Discharge Proforma Audit

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Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is characterized by progressive airway obstruction, worsening exercise tolerance, and is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. It is the third most common cause of respiratory death in Ireland(1). A new discharge proforma introduced to University Hospital Galway aims to standardize management and follow-up for patients admitted with exacerbations of COPD.

### Objectives

To assess the use of the new COPD Discharge Proforma and compliance with the recommendations of the Irish NCEC National Clinical Guidelines on Management of COPD (2020).

### Method

A retrospective audit of 55 patients admitted to University Hospital Galway with a diagnosis of "exacerbation of COPD" was performed. 27 patients attended the hospital in 2021 prior to the creation of the COPD discharge proforma, and 28 patients after its initial implementation in 2022. Data was collected from the clinical notes, discharge letters, and investigations available on their electronic patient record.

Table 1: Difference in management before and after the introduction of a COPD discharge proforma.

### Results

The adherence to COPD management guidelines in the patient groups with and without the COPD Discharge Proforma is compared in Table 1.

	Usual management (N = 27)	Post Proforma (n = 28)	P value
<b>Smoking status (%):</b>			
Current	9 (33.3)	15 (53.6)	
Ex-smoker	13 (48.1)	13 (46.4)	
Non-smoker	4 (14.8)	0 (0)	
Unknown	1 (3.7)	0 (0)	0.09
Inhaler technique review (%)	6 (22.2)	28 (100.0)	<0.01
Target oxygen level in notes (%)	17 (63.0)	26 (92.9)	0.1
Chest physio review during admission	24 (88.9)	24 (85.7)	1.0
Smoking cessation advice (%)	7 (77.8)	15 (100.0)	0.13
Referral to smoking cessation officer (%)	3 (33.3)	4 (26.7)	0.36
COPD support pack provided (%)	2 (7.4)	28 (100.0)	<0.01
COPD self management plan (%)	2 (7.4)	27 (96.4)	<0.01
<b>Pulmonary rehab referral made (%):</b>			
Yes	3 (11.1)	16 (57.1)	
No	18 (66.7)	1 (3.6)	
Not suitable	6 (22.2)	7 (25.0)	
Refused	0 (0)	4 (14.3)	<0.01
Completed pulmonary rehab (%):	0 (0)	6 (21.4)	<0.01
COPD outreach referral (%)	8 (29.6)	27 (96.4)	<0.01
<b>Follow up (%):</b>			
Respiratory	19 (70.4)	27 (96.4)	
GP	55 (18.5)	1 (3.6)	
None	3 (11.1)	0 (0)	0.03

**Discussion:** Areas for improvement of adherence to COPD management guidelines identified include referrals to smoking cessation officers, COPD support and management plan provision, and pulmonary rehabilitation referrals. Many of these areas needing improvement demonstrated significant improvement following the introduction of the COPD Discharge Proforma.

### References

1. N. Brennan, T.M. O'Connor. INHALE Report. 2004. DOI: 10.1183/09031936.04.00025604

**Conflicts of Interest:** No conflicts of interest to declare