

7.12 Applying a Lean Approach to the Physiotherapy Management of Exacerbations of COPD in Medical Wards of a Model Four Hospital 2/2.

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To address variation in physiotherapy input for patients admitted to hospital with exacerbations of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), an Enhanced Recovery Model for COPD was piloted over a 6-week period. Resources were developed to support physiotherapists including education and documentation to align with the GOLD Guideline for the Management of COPD (2021). Patients from UHL medical wards referred to Physiotherapy for management of COPD were assessed and managed using the novel resources. Metrics gathered from a six-week period prior to development of the resources (T1) and compared with a six-week period of the Enhanced Recovery Model (T2) included the quality of the physiotherapy assessment (COPD Assessment Tool [CAT] score, modified Medical Research Council Dyspnoea Sub-Scale [mMRC] and the GOLD ABCD assessment tool) and quality of physiotherapy management (including appropriate referrals to Smoking Cessation and Pulmonary Rehabilitation).

Results:

14 patients were included in the pre-implementation phase (T1); 17 in the post-implementation period (T2). Documentation of all key metrics improved: CAT score from 28.57% (T1) to 92% (T2); mMRC: 0% (T1) to 92% (T2); GOLD ABCD: 0% (T1) to 77% (T2); referral to smoking cessation increased from 0% (T1) to 83% (T2); referral to pulmonary rehabilitation increased from 17% (T1) to 44% (T2).

Conclusion: The quality of physiotherapy assessment and management increased considerably following introduction of relevant education and documentation.

Conflict of Interest: *None to declare*