3.10 An exploration of a general respiratory waiting list

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Background: 21,629 patients currently await outpatient respiratory medicine review in Ireland. (1) This study aimed to profile the nature of a general respiratory outpatient waiting list.

Methods: A prospective analysis of all patients attending a respiratory NTPF-funded waiting list initiative between September 2022 and March 2023.

Results: Of 285 patients scheduled for general respiratory outpatient clinic, 207 attended. Of this 207, median time to review was 25 months (range 2-45). 41.55% (n=86) were male and median age was 59 (range 19-92). 24.15% (n=50) were active smokers. The most common referral indications were dyspnoea, (n=54, 26.01%), cough (n=46, 22.22%), asthma control (n=20, 9.66%), COPD control (n=12, 5.80%), assessment for COPD (n=9, 4.35%) and recurrent LRTIs (n = 9, 4.35%). 33.33% (n=69) had underwent a chest x-ray prior to review and despite only 14.01% (n=29) having completed PFTs, 44.93% (n=93) were on inhaled therapy. 15.94% (n=33) were discharged after their first review and 18.84% (n=39) after their second.

Conclusions: A significant number of patients referred to general respiratory clinics attend without initial diagnostic tests. Improved community access would expedite management of low-acuity respiratory illnesses, conserving specialist expertise for complex patients.

Disclosures: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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