

7.08 Evaluation of GP direct access to spirometry in Galway City Integrated Care Hub

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Background: Early access to spirometry by GPs is a key part of the respiratory integrated programme (1). Equitable and timely access to spirometry allows an early diagnosis of COPD and Asthma to be made. We describe the implementation of the first 40 GP direct access spirometry referrals and results in Galway City Hub.

Methods: Electronic patient records (EPR) from May 2023 – July 2023 of those referred for spirometry from GPs in Galway City Hub were reviewed. We used Excel to collect the data of referral date, date of spirometry done, date of report, patient location, if reversibility done, technique and results of spirometry.

Results: 34/40 patients attended, distributed across the community networks. Mean wait time from referral was 33 days. 88% demonstrated adequate technique. The spirometry results as follows: 62% normal, 35% obstructive and 3% restrictive. Reversibility was carried out in 13 patients, of whom 7 demonstrated positive results.

Conclusion: Early access to diagnostics allows the correct diagnoses of asthma and COPD to be made in the community. This empowers GPs to manage the patients appropriately with timely referral to community respiratory integrated services such as community pulmonary rehabilitation, clinical nurse specialists and physiotherapists.

Keywords: GP diagnostics, PFTs, community clinic

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

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References:

1. National Framework for the Integrated Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease in Ireland 2020 – 2025