7.19 A retrospective study on COPD patients attending emergency Department after outreach input.

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COPD is an incurable, progressive illness affecting the lung with significant symptoms. An exacerbation of COPD is considered an Ambulatory Condition[1].

The aim of COPD Outreach programme is to reduce the number of admissions, ED presentations and hospital length of stay. The objective is facilitate a safe, planned early/ assisted discharge[2]. The programme provide patient education which enables patients to identify signs and symptoms of exacerbation and instigate self-management plans[3].

A retrospective audit was carried out to evaluate the impact COPD Outreach programme. Study evaluate the ED presentations among COPD patients after COPD Outreach input. Samples were selected based on inclusion and exclusion criteria.

COPD Outreach reviewed 193 patients to assess the suitability of the programme. 59 patients were included in the programme. Of the 59 patients 21(group A) had more than 3 ED presentations in 6 months, 17 patients (group B) had 2 ED presentations and the remaining 21(group C) patients had one presentation. After COPD Outreach input group A showed a 50% reduction in ED presentation, group B showed an 80% reduction in ED presentation and group C shows 70% reduction.

Self-management empower patients to manage their COPD at home during their exacerbation, which reduce the number of ED presentations .Currently the outreach is working 50% capacity in Naas ,improved staffing will enable improved accessibility to the service.

References

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2. HSE End to end model of care for COPD (2019).

3. A guidance document for setting up COPD Outreach Services for Healthcare Professionals (2022).