

## 7.24 Establishment of an Integrated Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Outreach Service in the North West.

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**Background:** COPD was the third leading cause for emergency in-patient admissions in HSE Hospitals in 2021, with an average length of stay (LOS) of 7.5 days.<sup>1</sup> A HSE key priority is increasing integration between acute and community services.

Some patients are susceptible to frequent exacerbations (defined as  $\geq 2$  per year) and have worse health status and morbidity<sup>2</sup>. The most important predictor is a history of exacerbations.

A COPD Outreach Service was established at Sligo University Hospital (SUH) in June 2023 with the aim of enhancing COPD patient care, decreasing LOS and readmissions.

**Methods:** Prior to the commencement of the COPD Outreach Service an audit was completed using HIPE/IPMS from 2022 with the aim of establishing a baseline of COPD impact to inform service delivery.

**Results:** There were 306 discharges for COPD from SUH in 2022. The average LOS was 7.1 days. 44(20.8%) patients had  $\geq 2$  admissions for COPD. Of these 36/44(81.8%) had  $\geq 2$  admissions the previous year. 30/44 (75%) had data available to examine in further detail. Notable frequent co-morbidities included Congestive Cardiac Failure 14/30(47%), Cardiovascular Disease 21/30(70%) and current smoking 18/30(60%). 10 (5%) patients had  $\geq 4$  admissions for COPD accounting for 72.5% (29) of all readmissions. All of these individuals with  $\geq 4$  admissions had at least one 30 day readmission.

**Conclusions:** This audit has helped to identify those who may benefit from additional health and social care services including COPD Outreach with the aim of more efficient use of resources and improved outcomes for patients.

**Keywords:** COPD, admissions, integrated-care.

**Disclosures:**

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

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