Identifying undiagnosed COPD

This worksheet helps practices to identify patients with undiagnosed COPD in an effective, efficient and practical way. Patients with COPD often present late, sometimes with a hospital admission, and the opportunity to bring about disease modifying change has already been lost.

In the UK, winter respiratory infections in this group of patients may in fact be exacerbations of COPD.

Using a series of flexible data searches (allowing practices to widen or narrow the patient group), the practice can zoom in on the group of patients who are most likely to have COPD, and proceed to diagnostic spirometry where appropriate.

PCRS-UK Resources:

- PCRS-UK Opinion sheets - Screening and case-finding in COPD, Diagnosis of COPD in primary care
- PCRS-UK Quick Guide to the diagnosis and management of COPD in primary care
- PCRS-UK COPD assessment and review protocol

Other Resources:


Practice Improvement Worksheets, DRAFT version 01, Date of Expiry December 2015

This series of practice improvement worksheets are intended for members to use within their practice. This is a pilot project, prepared in DRAFT format. Please tell us what you think! We would like feedback on the accuracy, completeness, usefulness and outcomes of the resource. To submit your feedback visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EQUIPPIW
Search for all patients aged 45 years or over who are listed as current or ex-smokers

Narrow down your search by identifying those patients who have received oral steroids and antibiotics in the past year

Exclude:-
- Patients with an existing diagnosis of asthma or COPD
- Those with normal spirometry recorded in the past year
- Those with contraindications to spirometry (life-limiting co-morbidity, active neoplasm, dementia likely to impact on performance)
- Patients who may be on oral steroids and antibiotics for reasons other than acute respiratory infections

Validated case-finding questionnaire
Sample: [CLICK HERE]

Mini Spirometry
More info – [CLICK HERE]
FEV1/FEV6 ratio <0.7

Invite / offer diagnostic spirometry
For information on spirometry [CLICK HERE]