

Ambulatory Care Pathway for COPD

Initial Assessment

- Is there a confirmed diagnosis of COPD?
- *Shortness of breath
- *Increased volume sputum
- *Purulent sputum
- SpO₂, ABG, CRP
- FBC, U&E
- Chest x-ray
- ECG

Initial Management

- Give controlled oxygen – aiming SpO₂ 88 – 92%**
- Nebuliser (air driven if type 2 RF)
- Prednisolone 30mg
- Antibiotics and sputum culture if 2 out of 3 (*see left)

Also consider

- Pulmonary embolism
- Pneumonia
- Pneumothorax
- Heart Failure

Reassess Patient

Assess suitability for management at home

Factor	Treatment at home?	Treatment in hospital?
Response to initial treatment	Improving	Deteriorating
Acute confusion/Delirium	No	Yes
Signs of Systemic Sepsis	No	Yes
Respiratory Rate	≤24	>24
Central cyanosis	No	Yes
New changes on the chest radiograph	No	Yes
Arterial pH level	≥ 7.35	<7.35
Arterial PaO ₂ on air or normal oxygen prescription	≥ 7.3kPa	<7.3kPa
Social circumstances (see process for social care rapid response via Housing 21)	Able to cope with adequate social support in place	Inadequate social support in place and unable to activate rapid response via Housing 21
End of Life	Preferred Place of Care/Death	

Reassess Patient

Assess suitability for management at home

GOOD RESPONSE Management at home

Further management;

- Prescribe Prednisolone 7 days 30mg
- Prescribe antibiotics as per protocol
- Increase inhaler B2 agents/consider home nebulisers and **discharge with 3 days supply**

POOR RESPONSE Treatment in hospital (patient consent agreement in place)

Refer to Medical Team

Discuss with Senior/Consultant

The Community Respiratory Service provide Intensive Home Support which includes nebuliser therapy, chest physiotherapy & non-medical prescribing. All patients will receive a home visit within 24 hours of a telephone referral. Patients referred before 6pm will be contacted via telephone within 2 hours. Patients referred after this time will receive a telephone follow-up within 30 minutes of the service re-opening the next day.

Opening hours: 8am-8pm every day (including weekends and bank holidays)
All referrals accepted via [telephone; 01772 777042](tel:01772 777042)

When leaving a voicemail leave the following info:
Name, Address, Contact Telephone Numbers, Date of Birth, Brief History & Name of Referrer, Time of Referral, any safeguarding issues

Abbreviations:

ABG - Arterial Blood Gases
CRP - C-reactive Protein
FBC - Full Blood Count
PaO₂ - Partial Pressure of Oxygen in Arterial Blood
SpO₂ - Oxygen Saturation of Peripheral Blood
U&E - Urea & Electrolytes

For further information please refer to the NICE Clinical Guidelines for COPD (CG101 2010)

**refer to Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust guideline entitled 'Safe Delivery of O2 in the Acute/Hospital Setting'