

4.13 Evaluation of Direct GP Access Spirometry in the Galway City Integrated Care Hub

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Background: GP Access to spirometry is integral to the Enhanced Community Care programme in Ireland. Timely access to spirometry is essential for accurate diagnosis and effective treatment of obstructive airways disease. This study reviews current practices, challenges, and outcomes of direct GP access to spirometry. **Methods:** A retrospective analysis was conducted on direct spirometry referrals from GPs in the Galway City Integrated Care Hub catchment area. Data was collected on referral patterns, waiting times and test outcomes.

Results: Over 15-months, since service commencement, 221 patients completed direct access spirometry. The average wait time from referral to spirometry was 54 days. Adequate spirometry technique was observed in 85% of cases. 135 (61%) tests were normal, with 67 (30%) showing an obstructive pattern. Among the 56 with fixed airflow obstruction, 28(50%) were classified as GOLD 1, 23 (41%) as GOLD 2, and 5 (9%) as GOLD 3, with no GOLD 4 cases. **Conclusions:** Direct GP access spirometry is an effective pathway for diagnosing obstructive airways disease. Acknowledging the high proportion of normal tests, further GP engagement is essential to ensure appropriate referrals thereby reducing wait times.

Keywords: GP direct access Spirometry

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