

8.16 COPD Outreach Toolkit to Support Admission Avoidance in COPD

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Background: Exacerbations of COPD often necessitate prolonged hospital admissions, which have been shown to be costly to COPD patients' quality of life and the health service. COPD Outreach programmes provide an admission avoidance service for such patients. However, this is not always feasible due to lack of information regarding the exacerbation phenotype.. Point-of-care testing (POCT) may provide a solution to further support the management of COPD exacerbations in the home setting. **Methods:** In Galway, we trialled POCT at home, specifically the HemoCue© WBC DIFF and Afinion CRP analyser, alongside transcutaneous CO2 monitoring, to better assess and phenotype COPD exacerbations and to determine if home management could be safely provided. **Results:** Over three months, the COPD Outreach team has trialled these POCTs to improve the assessment of COPD patients, with many exacerbations being safely managed in the home environment. Furthermore, transcutaneous CO2 monitoring, in conjunction with clinical presentation, has been instrumental in identifying patients who require further inpatient assessment for type 2 respiratory failure. **Conclusions:** The HemoCue© WBC DIFF POCT, Afinion CRP, and transcutaneous CO2 monitoring are valuable tools that guide the treatment of COPD exacerbations within a community setting, allowing the COPD outreach to safely manage patients in their own homes **Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.