

8.20 COPD Virtual Care: A paradigm shift away from hospital care to patient-centred care

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Background: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a heterogeneous lung condition causing persistent, progressive airflow obstruction. It is the most common disease-specific cause of adult emergency hospital admissions in Ireland¹. Virtual wards (VW) are a promising solution to optimize care for COPD patients². The VW aligns with the Slaintecare vision of delivering one universal health service, providing right care, in the right place, at the right time³ for COPD patients. **Methods:** This study explores the feasibility and effectiveness of a COPD-VW pathway, expanding the existing Outreach service to include remote patient monitoring for acute exacerbation via MyPatientSpace. The VW MDT provides comprehensive patient care. It alleviates inpatient bed strain, improves patient flow, and reduces patients awaiting admission in the Emergency Department. **Results:** COPD-VW has provided 30 care episodes since launching- April 2024. The average length of stay (LOS) is 7.6 days, 35.5% improvement on LOS compared to the national average⁵. The HIPE data report (2024) estimates costings €8179 per COPD hospital stay. This pilot to date has saved 205.4 days. **Conclusions:** Findings from this study will provide valuable insights into the potential benefits of a COPD VW and inform future efforts to scale and embed this innovative care model. **Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.