

## 8.26 Adherence with COPD Guidelines in the Management of Patients Attending a Respiratory Advanced Nurse Practitioner Outpatient Clinic.

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**Background:** Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a progressive, life-threatening lung disease and represents a major burden to individuals, societies and healthcare services throughout the world. The Irish Thoracic Society estimates that almost 500,000 people aged 40 years and over in Ireland could have COPD, of whom over 200,000 have moderate or severe disease and only half are likely to be diagnosed. It is ranked as the third leading cause of death globally by the World Health Organisation, and the fourth leading cause of death in Ireland. **Methods:** Diagnosis and management of COPD remains one the primary reasons for referral to the Respiratory Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP) outpatient clinic. A retrospective audit was carried out of patients that attended the clinic over a six month period with a diagnosis of COPD in order to evaluate concordance with international best practice as determined by the GOLD guidelines. A chart review was conducted and information gathered on i) diagnosis and assessment, ii) non-pharmacological management and iii) pharmacological management. **Results:** Study outcomes were interpreted to assess if decisions about the care of individual patients demonstrated explicit and judicious use of evidence based guidelines for the diagnosis and management of COPD. Overall results demonstrated that patients attending the clinic received care in line with the guidelines and highlighted areas for improvement including staging of disease, Alpha 1 antitrypsin status and assessment tools. **Conflict of Interest-** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

### References

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