

Emergency Department (ED) electronic Integrated COPD proforma (e-ICP) Triage to discharge

Oxygen therapy

- Maintain oxygen saturation of 88-92% (Use nasal prongs at 0.5–2.0 L/minute or a Venturi mask at 24% or 28%)

Inhaled bronchodilators

- Short acting bronchodilators, Inhaled beta-agonist (e.g., salbutamol, 400–800mcg; terbutaline, 500–100mcg) and antimuscarinic agent (ipratropium, 80mcg) can be given by pressurised metered dose inhaler and spacer, or by jet nebulisation (salbutamol, 2.5–5 mg; terbutaline, 5 mg; ipratropium, 500mcg).

Diagnostics

Arterial blood gas

- In case of FEV1 < 40% predicted perform: COPD severity score, blood gas measurements, chest x- rays and electrocardiography
- FEV1 is less than 1.0 L or less than 40% predicted, or if percutaneous oxygen saturation is less than 90% in the presence of adequate peripheral perfusion or cor- pulmonale.

Corticosteroids

- Up to two weeks therapy with prednisolone (40–50 mg daily) is adequate

Antibiotics

- Antibiotics are given for purulent sputum to cover for typical and atypical organisms

Non-Invasive Ventilation

- Indicated for increasing hypercapnia and acidosis. (Non-invasive ventilation

by means of a mask is the preferred method)

Pulmonary rehabilitation referral criteria

ED discharge criteria

- Pulmonary rehabilitation should be offered to patients with COPD following hospitalisation for an exacerbation of COPD within 2 weeks
- Clinically stable condition with no parenteral therapy
- Inhaled bronchodilators are required less than four-hourly
- Oxygen delivery has ceased
If previously able, the patient is ambulating safely and independently, and performing activities of daily living
- The patient or caregiver understands and can administer medications
- Follow-up and home care arrangements arranged

ED discharge template to General practitioner or Outpatient Patient Clinic

- Discharge summary will be linked here electronically
- Provide COPD patient information pack by Lung foundation Australia

Emergency Department electronic Integrated COPD care proforma (e-ICP) Triage to discharge

- 1) Oxygen therapy
 - Maintain oxygen saturation of 88-92% (Use nasal prongs at 0.5–2.0 L/minute or a Venturi mask at 24% or 28%)

- 2) Inhaled bronchodilators
 - Short acting bronchodilators [dose interval is titrated to the response and can range hourly to six hourly]
 - Inhaled beta-agonist [Salbutamol MDI 100 mcg (4 to 8 puffs), Ipratropium MDI 21 mcg (4 puffs)]
 - Jet nebulisation (Salbutamol, 2.5–5 mg; Terbutaline, 5 mg; Ipratropium, 500mcg)

- 3) Diagnostics
 - Modified Medical Research Council (mMRC) Dyspnoea Scale to assess severity in the absence of FeV1
 - In case of FEV1 < 40% predicted perform: COPD severity score, blood gas measurements, chest x- rays and electrocardiography
 - ABG recommended if the VBG pH ≤ 7.34

- 4) Corticosteroids
 - Oral corticosteroids for 5 days and up to 14 days (prednisolone 40–50 mg daily)

- 5) Antibiotics
 - Antibiotics are recommended for purulent sputum only to cover for typical and atypical organisms.

- 6) Non-Invasive Ventilation
 - NIV for increasing hypercapnia and acidosis (ABG with a PaCO₂ above 45mmHg and a pH less than 7.35)

- 7) ED discharge criteria
 - Clinically stable condition with no parenteral therapy
 - Inhaled bronchodilators are required less than four-hourly
 - Inhaler technique assessed by ED clinician or a nurse
 - Oxygen delivery has ceased unless patient is on home oxygen
 - If previously able, the patient is ambulating safely and independently, and performing activities of daily living (3–6-minute walk test recommended)
 - The patient can eat and sleep without significant episodes of dyspnoea

- The patient or caregiver understands and is able to administer medications

8) ED discharge template to primary care or OPC

9) Resp Nurse outpatient's clinic (OPC) referral

- Follow-up and home care arrangements (e.g.: home oxygen, homecare, Meals on Wheels, community nurse, allied health, GP, specialist)
- Discharge summary template for convenience (will be linked electronically)
- Provide COPD patient information pack by Lung foundation Australia (will be linked electronically) • All AECOPD ED discharges are highly recommended to have Respiratory CNC referral (Direct electronic referrals from ED will be linked here)