

Respiratory Programme

**A “Back to Basics” approach for community based nurses,
community pharmacists and patients**

**The Academic Health Science Network for the North East and
North Cumbria**



Respiratory

Background: research & consultation

Research

In 2014/15, in a project funded by the AHSN NENC, the management in primary care of 3075 COPD patients in Newcastle was audited and compared to NICE Guideline standards.

Key findings include:

- 63% had no record of exacerbation frequency
- 79% had no quality of life measurement
- 53% had no inhaler technique assessment
- 86% had no self management plan (SMPs) or emergency rescue pack

Primary care staff surveys revealed:

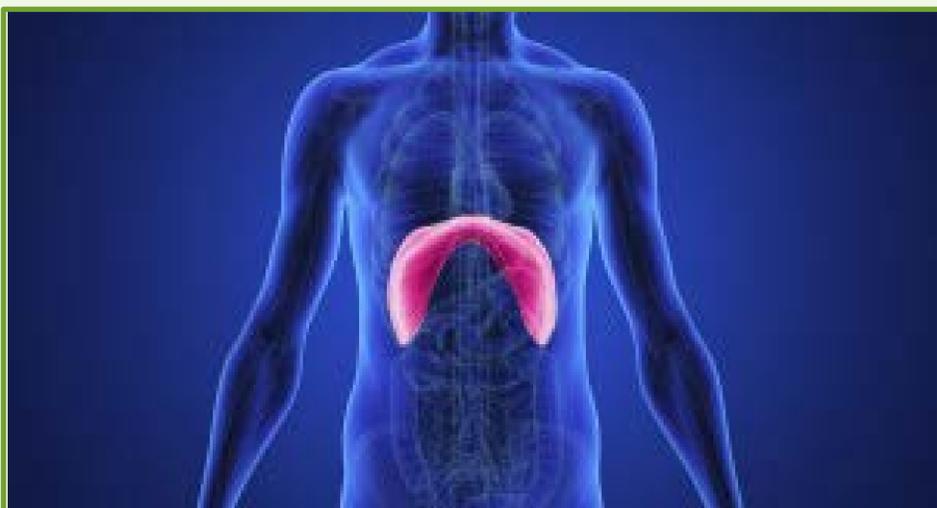
- 1:4 do not feel confident/adequately trained to advise patients about COPD or to educate on the correct use of inhalers
- 1:3 do not feel confident/adequately trained to educate patients on the use of SMPs and exacerbation rescue packs or on the implementation of local treatment guidelines.

Consultation

Extensive consultation was conducted with primary care respiratory leaders around the region confirming that a similar picture would be revealed in the majority of areas and a “Back to Basics” approach was needed.

Priority areas

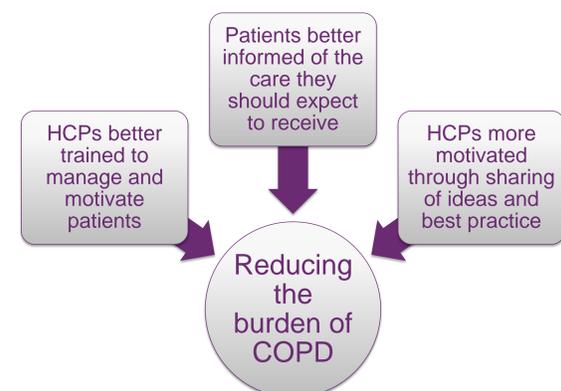
- Develop and deliver an accredited “Back to Basics” COPD training programme for out of hospital HCPs.
- Develop a Regional Respiratory Network, focused in primary care and aiming to share expertise, innovation and best practice.
- Work in collaboration with the British Lung Foundation to empower patients and raise expectations of the care they should expect to receive.



Project progress

- 1st and 2nd pilot training courses at Northumbria and Sunderland Universities completed for 60 delegates in total.
- A series of e-learning modules for HCPs providing education on a range of COPD related topics.
- Supporting projects in Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG, Darlington CCG and Newcastle Gateshead CCG (Newcastle) which may ultimately inform COPD service redesign in primary care.
- Supporting pilot projects in East Newcastle where Community Pharmacists are working with GPs to improve patient outcomes.
- Working with the British Lung Foundation to provide Patient Awareness Days and Expert Patient Training Programmes.
- Primary Care Respiratory Network established, further meetings planned and dedicated website in development to support this venture.
- North East Quality Observatory Service will measure programme impact and outcomes.

Potential impact on the system and patients



Why this work is important

- Prevalence of COPD currently 2.7% compared to 1.6% nationally.
- Premature mortality rates from COPD are highest in England.
- Regional total healthcare spend significantly higher than national average.
- Emergency admission rates for COPD remained constant since 2011/12
- Wide variation in the proportion of emergency admissions that were 0 or 1 day length of stay
- QOF achievement in 2 out of the 5 indicators has decreased steadily

To find out more about the Respiratory Programme, please contact Sue Hart:
sue.hart@ahsn-nenc.org.uk