ICST.QI

The Institute of
Clinical Science & Technology

Getting the diagnosis right for patients on the COPD register

Fixing the COPD register

PROJECT OVERVIEW

STEP 1

Identify all patients on the COPD register.

STEP 2

Check all patients for evidence of COPD diagnostic testing (ensuring correct code for post-bronchodilator spirometry and check ratio) so you can identify all patients without sufficient evidence to support their diagnosis.

MORE DETAILS

STEP 1

Identify every patient on your COPD register.

STEP 2

Sort your COPD patients by those who have the correct code for post-bronchodilator spirometry:
• Read Code: 339m
• Or SNOMED code: 407603001

Also check that they have the correct FEV1/FVC ratio recorded, and this result is less than 0.7. This should be a decimal number, not a percentage.
• For example, 0.65
• NOT 65%

If the patient does have the correct code for post-bronchodilator spirometry AND a ratio recorded less than 0.7, this confirms their diagnosis of COPD. No further action required.

If the patient does not have the correct code for post-bronchodilator spirometry AND/OR a ratio recorded less than 0.7, they may be misdiagnosed and should be reviewed.

Patients with the correct code for post-bronchodilator spirometry

For those patients who DO have the correct code for post-bronchodilator spirometry (either a Read Code or SNOMED code), check that they have the correct FEV1/FVC ratio recorded. This should be a decimal number, not a percentage.
• For example, 0.65
• NOT 65%
• To convert a percentage to a ratio, divide by 100.

If the ratio is missing or in the wrong format, go into the patient's records, locate the patient's FEV1/FVC ratio in their spirometry test result, and amend the ratio to ensure it is a number starting with 0. (e.g. 0.34).

Patients with FEV1/FVC ratio greater than 0.7

For those patients who do have post-bronchodilator spirometry in their notes, but the FEV1/FVC ratio is greater than 0.7, remove the patient from your COPD register and invite the patient in for a review of their diagnosis.

No code for post-bronchodilator spirometry

For those patients who DO NOT have the correct code (either a Read Code or SNOMED code) for post-bronchodilator spirometry, check whether they have ANY record of spirometry.

Where there is evidence of post-bronchodilator spirometry, change the code:
• Read Code: 339m
• SNOMED code: 407603001

No evidence of post-bronchodilator spirometry

Where there is no evidence of post-bronchodilator spirometry, ensure this patient is invited to perform post-bronchodilator spirometry in their next consultation (see the next QI project for more details).