



Getting the diagnosis right for patients on the COPD register

The COPD Diagnostic Review

PROJECT OVERVIEW

STEP 1

Invite all patients without evidence of diagnostic testing on the COPD register (gathered in part one).

STEP 2

Provide all patients with test (post-bronchodilator spirometry) for COPD diagnosis to confirm or disprove diagnosis.

MORE DETAILS

STEP 1 - INVITE PATIENTS FOR A DIAGNOSTIC REVIEW

Ensure you have completed the first QI project in this series 'Fixing the COPD register'. From this project, you should have a list of patients who need a review of their COPD diagnosis:

- Those who have no record of spirometry
- Those who have a record of spirometry which is not post-bronchodilator
- Those who have a record of poor quality spirometry

In the resources section of this project, you will find some examples of template letters to use to invite a patient in for a review of their diagnosis.

STEP 2 - PERFORM A POST-BRONCHODILATOR SPIROMETRY MEASUREMENT

Ensure your patient has taken their inhaler at least 20-minutes before testing and perform spirometry.

Remember, post-bronchodilator spirometry, or spirometry performed after administration of a reliever inhaler, is the test needed to confirm a diagnosis of COPD.

Once you have achieved good quality spirometry results, record this results in the patient's notes with the correct code for post-bronchodilator spirometry:

- Read Code: 339m
- Or SNOMED code: 407603001

AND record the FEV1/FVC ratio. 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.

At this stage, you will have confirmed or refuted the patient's diagnosis. Click through the dropdown menu below for more details.

Scenario 1 – diagnosis is confirmed

For those patients who now have evidence of a post-bronchodilator spirometry with a FEV1/FVC ratio less than 0.7, confirm the diagnosis and continue managing their COPD.

Scenario 2 – diagnosis is refuted

For those patients who have evidence of a post-bronchodilator spirometry with a FEV1/FVC ratio greater than 0.7, remove them from the COPD register and consider a differential diagnosis.

- SNOMED Code: 195967001

If the patient does not any evidence of variability, they may be misdiagnosed and should be reviewed. Click through the dropdown menu below for more details.