

COPD Exacerbation Requiring Observation

With Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) estimated to affect 15% of all New Zealanders aged over 45 years and over, a significant proportion of patients presenting to hospital with an acute exacerbation of their COPD could be managed safely in the community.

Purpose

To support the management of patients presenting with COPD exacerbation who require **extended** observation in a general practice or Urgent Care.

Acute COPD exacerbation

COPD Exacerbation is an acute change in the patient's baseline characterized by an increase in dyspnoea, cough, wheeze and/or sputum that is beyond normal day-to-day variations.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Hawkes Bay Resident AND
- COPD must have been diagnosed clinically, preferably with spirometry, from a registered medical practitioner or nurse practitioner.

AND

- Presents with an acute exacerbation of COPD AND
- Requires treatment AND
- Requires an extended period of observation (up to 2 hours)

Exclusions

- Patients requiring repeat prescriptions
- Patients not requiring extended observation
- Patients who do not have a diagnosis of COPD

Pathway

- Patient presenting to general practice/urgent care with an acute exacerbation of COPD, requiring an extended period of observation that can be safely and effectively managed in a primary care setting.
- Consider differential diagnosis of heart failure, acute pneumonia. These conditions are not funded under this pathway.
- GP/NP undertake clinical responsibility during episode of care
- An extended period of observation is required, with careful monitoring and observation and treatment
- The patient is referred for a community chest X-ray, if indicated. **"CPO Referral" MUST be written on the X-Ray form.**
- Observe for signs of deterioration and discuss with relevant on-call Te Whatu Ora – Hawke's Bay specialist as needed for further advice.
- The patient receives a GP/NP consultation following the period of observation to review status, provide safety netting and organise follow up
- Smoking status recorded and smoking cessation offered

- CPO will fund the transportation to hospital via ambulance, as required, if no improvement or deterioration detected during period of observation
- Patient to receive a follow up consultation with GP/NP within 7 days of initial consult, either virtual or face to face to review long term management

Halcyon Provider Portal

The clinician completes the advanced form through the Halcyon Provider Portal and submits to Health Hawke's Bay for payment of the cost of the patient consultation.

No Charge to Patient

No co-payment can be made by patient referred into this pathway.

Transport

CPO will fund the cost of

- Transfer to hospital via St John ambulance if no improvement or the patient deteriorates
- The cost of the taxi for the patient to return home if they have no available transport. Please contact Hastings Taxis and request transport through CPO. Contact number 878 5055.

St Johns Ambulance

Patients seen and assessed by St John Ambulance in the patient's home may be transported to General Practice or Urgent Care, if clinically appropriated and with patient permission.

St John Ambulance will

- Contact the patient's GP in the first instance (where appropriate), if their regular GP is not at a participating practice or unavailable, they will contact the nearest Urgent Care clinic.
- If care accepted by the practice, discuss the case, and provide verbal handover.
- Transport the patient to clinic via ambulance.

Radiology

CPO will fund the associated cost of a Chest X-ray through the Community X-Ray service, as required

Napier Health Centre	Hours 9am-5pm (Open Seven Days)	Free
The Doctors Napier and Greenmedows	Hours 8.30am-5pm (Open Seven Days) Greenmedows (Monday-Friday)	Free*
Central Hawke's Bay Health Centre	Hours 10am-3:30pm (Monday to Friday)	Free
Wairoa Health	Hours 8:30am-5:30pm (Monday to Friday), plus acute on-call	*Free
The Hastings Health Centre	Mon- Fri 8.00am - 5.00pm	\$35 (this will be invoiced directly to HHB)

* Opening hours may vary on Public Holidays

Consider

- Smoking cessation
- Referral to Better Breathing – see link for below for Better Breathing pathway with referral process included <https://hawkesbay.communityhealthpathways.org/11652.htm>

Health Pathways

Click on link below: Currently under development.