**The National COPD audit for England and Wales**

**What is the National COPD audit?**

A national audit for COPD was initiated in England and Wales in 2013. This was designed to collect data from secondary care, primary care and pulmonary rehabilitation services in order to monitor the quality of care and adoption of best practice guidelines across the two countries. To date, reports have been published on the organisation of care in secondary care and pulmonary rehabilitation and the outcomes of care in secondary care and pulmonary rehabilitation. Important lessons have emerged from these reports which highlight areas for improvement both within those sectors, but also across the system.

**Data collection in primary care**

National audits have traditionally been focused on data collection in secondary care, but it has been increasingly recognised that for conditions which are largely managed in primary care, measuring the quality of care there becomes relevant and important. The national diabetes audit blazed the trail with data collection in primary care.

Unfortunately there have been significant challenges and delays with the COPD audit due to increasing limitations on data extraction from practices in England. At present it has not been possible to carry out the audit in England by collecting data from practices, but it is hoped that this nationally important work can be carried out in England in the future. It is fortunate that Wales has not had the same issues, so the collection of data from primary care has been able to proceed.

**The COPD primary care audit in Wales**

Practices were invited to take part in the audit in early 2016, and 60% of practices in Wales signed up. 280 practices provided valuable information about the care of 48,029 people living with COPD in Wales through automatic data downloads from the practice computer systems.

This report – ‘Time to take a breath’ – includes data from two main sources – data extracted to answer the questions posed by this audit , and QOF results (with and without ‘excepted’ patients).

**Primary care data collection in England**

As it is not possible currently to collect primary care data from practices in England, a report is being prepared only from the publicly available QOF data. This is due for publication in November.

**Other reports from the National COPD audit to date**

* Stone RA, Holzhauer-Barrie J, Lowe D, Searle L, Skipper E, Welham S, Roberts CM. ***COPD: Who cares? National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Audit Programme: Resources and organisation of care in acute NHS units in England and Wales 2014.* National organisational audit report.** London: RCP, November 2014. [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/copd-who-cares-organisational-audit-2014](https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/copd-who-cares-organisational-audit-2014)
* Stone RA, Holzhauer-Barrie J, Lowe D, Searle L, Skipper E, Welham S, Roberts CM. *COPD:* ***Who cares matters. National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Audit Programme: Clinical audit of COPD exacerbations admitted to acute units in England and Wales 2014.* National clinical audit report.** London: RCP, February 2015. [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/copd-who-cares-matters-clinical-audit-2014](https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/copd-who-cares-matters-clinical-audit-2014)
* Steiner M, Holzhauer-Barrie J, Lowe D, Searle L, Skipper E, Welham S, Roberts CM.***Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Time to breathe better. National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Audit Programme: Resources and organisation of Pulmonary Rehabilitation services in England and Wales 2015.* National organisational audit report.** London: RCP, November 2015. [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/pulmonary-rehabilitation-time-breathe-better](https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/pulmonary-rehabilitation-time-breathe-better)
* Steiner M, Holzhauer-Barrie J, Lowe D, Searle L, Skipper E, Welham S, Roberts CM. ***Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Steps to breathe better. National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Audit Programme: Clinical audit of Pulmonary Rehabilitation services in England and Wales 2015.* National clinical audit report.** London: RCP, February 2016. [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/pulmonary-rehabilitation-steps-breathe-better](https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/pulmonary-rehabilitation-steps-breathe-better)