

Summary of “COPD risk stratification: Helping you to prioritise patients most in need” Joint Working Project (GlaxoSmithKline (UK Ltd) and Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System)

September 2021 – April 2022

This summary has been written by GSK with consultation and approval from the Joint Working Project Team.

Project Overview:

Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System and GlaxoSmithKline (UK Ltd) undertook a Joint Working project with the aim of helping primary care to identify and prioritise for review patients who would benefit from referral and uptake of pulmonary rehabilitation (those COPD patients who are symptomatic or have had an exacerbation and/or a hospital admission in the last 12 months) and support delivery of reviews in line with local ‘Medicines Management of Stable COPD’ guidelines and a move towards lower carbon inhalers where clinically appropriate to improve the carbon footprint of inhaler use in Frimley ICS.

The project launched in September 2021 with the project being communicated to all primary care practices across the Integrated Care System.

Unfortunately, considering the continued impact of COVID-19 on primary care and the project starting during the Omicron winter wave there was limited engagement in the project from practices and therefore no conclusions can be drawn from the data collected.

Work carried out between September 2021 and April 2022:

- The steering group developed a ‘Practice Protocol Handbook’ which detailed the tools available to support primary care with COPD reviews as well as the criteria for referrals to pulmonary rehabilitation
- Members of the steering group attended multiple Primary Care meetings to raise awareness of the project
- 16 practices registered an interest in being part of the project, 7 signed up to the project and 3 shared baseline data.

Lessons learned:

- The early establishment of a broad project team from a wide range of stakeholders, working in an open and supportive manner was a key factor in this rapid project initiation.
- It is vital to gain early understanding of the sign off process within NHS (this may and quite often is different between organisations etc) and industry to ensure project can start on time including any information governance requirements.
- Broad communication plan was developed and implemented including presentations at NHS meetings and email communication to raise program awareness, understanding and engagement.
- Due to the impact of COVID-19 on primary care a project looking at providing additional resource into practices may have been more successful.