

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

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Care Pattern

CP-I

9000005 Patient(s) with problematic COPD control that had a PFT in last 12 reported months.

COPD is usually a progressive disease. A patient's lung function can be expected to worsen over time, even with the best available care (1). Objective measures of airflow limitation should be monitored to identify complications and determine when to adjust therapy. Spirometry is recommended if there is a substantial increase in symptoms or development of a complication (1). The consensus opinion of experts was the primary source of our recommendation for annual PFTs at minimum if any of the following criteria were met: two or more hospitalizations for COPD in the past 12 months, three or more emergency room visits for COPD in the past 12 months, six or more office visits or urgent care visits for COPD in the past 12 months, or two or more prescriptions for oral corticosteroids dispensed in the past 6 months. Given the limitation of claims data, it is otherwise difficult to identify patients who are experiencing an increase in symptoms or developing a complication from their disease.

1. *GOLD. Global strategy for the diagnosis, management and prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Updated 2008. Available at: URL: <http://www.goldcopd.com>. Accessed August 28, 2009.*