



CLINICAL PATHWAY

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Exacerbation (COPD-E)

☐ Civic ☐ General

Clinical Frailty Scale (At baseline, at least 2 weeks before hospitalization)

Init.	Diagram	Frailty Scale Description	Expected Goal of Care	Consider Consulting Services	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Initials
		Well: • No active disease symptoms • Active occasionally, e.g. seasonally	• Return to independent living • Self manage breathing techniques, secretion clearance • Recognize early symptoms of COPD exacerbation	☐ Respiratory Therapy (for teaching by CRE)		
	OR					
		Managing Well: • Medical problems are well controlled , BUT • Not regularly active beyond routine walking				
		Vulnerable: • Not dependent on others for help, BUT • Symptoms limit activities	• Return to independent living • Self manage breathing techniques, secretion clearance • Recognize early symptoms of COPD exacerbation	☐ Respiratory Therapy (for teaching by CRE) ☐ Physiotherapy ☐ Occupational Therapy ☐ Dietetics		
		Mildly Frail: • More evident slowing • Need help in high order instrumental activities of daily living (finances, transportation, heavy housework, medications) • Progressive impairment of shopping, walking outside alone, meal preparation, housework	• Return home with additional services • Consider relocation to assisted living facility if appropriate • Self manage breathing techniques, secretion clearance • Recognize early symptoms of COPD exacerbation • Recognize need to modify activities and/or use additional equipment to maximize functional abilities	☐ Respiratory Therapy (for teaching by CRE) ☐ Physiotherapy ☐ Occupational Therapy (consider cognitive screen) ☐ Social Work ☐ Dietetics		
	OR					
		Moderately Frail: • Need help with all outside activities and with keeping house • Often have problems with stairs • Need help with bathing • Minimal assistance (cueing, standby) with dressing				
		Severely Frail: • Completely dependent on others for personal care (physical or cognitive) • Stable, not at high risk of dying (within 6 months)	• Strongly consider assisted living (either with services in current dwelling or by relocation to new facility) • Understands severity of illness and the limits this places on functional ability • Engage in advanced care planning discussions with the medical team and with the family physician upon discharge	☐ Physiotherapy ☐ Occupational Therapy ☐ Social Work ☐ Dietetics		
	OR					
		Very Severely Frail: • Completely dependent, approaching the end of life • Could not recover even from a minor illness				
		Terminally Ill: • Approaching the end of life. • Applies to people with a life expectancy less than 6 months , who are not otherwise evidently frail	• Strongly consider palliative care consultation • Arrange hospice, long term care, or palliative care at home	☐ Social Work ☐ Palliative Care (MD to complete) If returning home: ☐ OT ☐ PT for services		

PHASE 1: Rescue Treatment

Start Date: yyyy _____ mm _____ dd _____

Critical Path	Patient Outcomes
Assessment/Treatment • Vital signs and SpO₂ q4h • Chest and respiratory assessment q shift and prn • Assess bowel function • Assess for anxiety q shift (if anxiety severe, consider psychology consult) Category Status • Ensure category status form completed by physician - Init _____ Date _____ Activities • Activity as tolerated • Up in chair for meals (TID) Nutrition • As ordered/tolerated • BMI = _____ kg/m₂ – Init _____ Date _____ • Consult Registered Dietitian using NUT 51 if BMI 21 or less, or patient report unintentional weight loss – Init _____ Date _____ • Provide nutrition booklet to patient, if appropriate • Consult SLP if concerns with swallowing/aspiration - Init _____ Date _____ Smoking Cessation Interventions • Provide patient nicotine replacement therapy as per orders (patch, gum, inhaler) Discharge Planning • Clinical Frailty Scale assessment (see left leaflet) - Init _____ Date _____	Assessment/Treatment • Vital signs within normal limits, afebrile • Optimal saturation achieved • Heart rate (less than 100 beats/minute at rest) • Decreased use of respiratory accessory muscles • Patient passing stool freely without difficulty Category Status • Category status completed Activities • Tolerating activity level eating more than 50% of each meal Nutrition • Tolerating diet Smoking Cessation Interventions • No symptoms of nicotine withdrawal (headache, nausea, irritability, anxiety) Discharge Planning • Appropriate referrals completed and sent (See action items of Frailty Scale Leaflet)

PHASE 1: Rescue Treatment (continued)

Patient progress corresponds with clinical pathway: **D: 8–12 h day shift** **E: evening shift, if applicable** **N: 8–12 h night shift**

Date: (yyyy/mm/dd) _____

D ☐ Yes ☐ No Signature: _____ Initials: _____ Time: _____ NTV – circle above, VC _____

E ☐ Yes ☐ No Signature: _____ Initials: _____ Time: _____ NTV – circle above, VC _____

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Variance Codes (VC) **492** Not discharged by end of pathway – continued need for acute care
510 Not discharged by end of pathway – non-medical reason

NTV Non-Tracked Variance
OFF Ordered off clinical pathway

PHASE 2: Optimization Phase

Start Date: yyyy _____ mm _____ dd _____

Critical Path	Patient Outcomes
Assessment/Treatment • Vital signs and SpO₂ q8h • Chest and respiratory assessment q shift and prn • Assess for anxiety q shift (if anxiety severe, consider psychology consult) RT to provide Patient/Family Education Mark off once completed with patient: ☐ Provide standard COPD education - Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Review inhaler device technique - Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Review pursed lip breathing, deep breathing, and coughing exercises - Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Review relaxation techniques and positioning to reduce dyspnea - Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Write order for spirometry in the chart, if required to confirm COPD diagnosis (MD to cosign) - Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Ensure that spirometry request sent to Module R prior to discharge (to be done as an inpatient, or outpatient, depending on availability) - Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Write order in chart for referral to COPD outreach program if patient meets criteria and send referral - Init _____ Date _____ ☐ If patient meets criteria for outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation, write order in chart to suggest referral to appropriate program (MD will send referral) - Init _____ Date _____ ☐ If patient would benefit from community lung health resources after discharge from hospital (education, maintenance rehabilitation, etc.), write order in chart with referral suggestions (MD will send referral) - Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Assess and qualify patient for home oxygen therapy if indicated Smoking Cessation/Counselling • Provide patient nicotine replacement therapy as per orders (patch, gum, inhaler) Activity/ADL's • Activity as tolerated • Up in chair for meals (TID) • Up to bathroom or commode – if able • Ambulate in hallway – if able • Assist and encourage with personal care Nutrition • As ordered/tolerated Initiate Early Discharge Planning • Ensure team is aware if patient is still requiring oxygen at rest, and was not on home oxygen • Assess and review pre-admission functional status • Ensure all applicable allied health team members consulted as per Clinical Frailty Scale	Assessment/Treatment • Vital signs within normal limits, afebrile • Optimal saturation achieved • Heart rate (less than 100 beats/minute at rest) • Decrease in anxiety Patient/Family Education • Adequate use of inhaler device (including mouth care) • Effective cough and expectoration techniques • Patient verbally expressing feeling less anxious • Spirometry suggested if required • Need for home oxygen assessed • COPD outreach and rehabilitation referrals suggested if required Smoking Cessation/Counselling • No symptoms of nicotine withdrawal Activity • Tolerating activity level • Increasing mobility level • Returning to baseline level of mobility Nutrition • Tolerating diet eating more than 50% of each meal • Good swallowing function, no aspiration • Improvement in weight and oral intake Initiate Early Discharge Planning • Patient understands limitations in level of function and need for additional home services (or assisted living) if required • Patient and family concerns heard and relayed to allied health and physician team members • Home oxygen assessment started, if required

PHASE 2: Optimization Phase (continued)

Patient progress corresponds with clinical pathway: **D: 8–12 h day shift** **E: evening shift, if applicable** **N: 8–12 h night shift**

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RT Signature

Signature: _____ Initials: _____

Variance Codes (VC) **492** Not discharged by end of pathway – continued need for acute care
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PHASE 3: Safe Transition

Start Date: yyyy _____ mm _____ dd _____

Critical Path	Patient Outcomes
Assessment/Treatment • Vital signs and SpO₂ q shift • Chest and respiratory assessment q shift and prn • Assess for anxiety q shift (if anxiety severe, consider inpatient psychology consult) Activity/ADL's • Activity as tolerated • Up in chair for meals (TID) • Up to bathroom or commode – if able • Ambulate in hallway – if able • Assist and encourage with personal care Nutrition • As ordered/tolerated Medication Teaching • Page Respiratory Pharmacist to complete medication review - Init _____ Date _____ Smoking Cessation/Counselling • Continue nicotine replacement Follow-up Appointments/Services • Specialist follow-up arranged by clerks based on physician recommendations - MD Init _____ Date _____ • GP follow-up arranged within 2 – 4 weeks of discharge (ask patient to call) • Referral to COPD community services sent (check all that apply): ☐ COPD outreach team MD Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Lung Association Referral MD Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Champlain Lung Health Referral MD Init _____ Date _____ ☐ TOH COPD Education (PFT Lab) MD Init _____ Date _____ ☐ TRC Pulmonary Rehabilitation MD Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Montfort Pulmonary Rehabilitation MD Init _____ Date _____ ☐ Other _____ MD Init _____ Date _____	Assessment/Treatment • Vital signs within normal limits, afebrile • Optimal saturation achieved • Heart rate (less than 100 beats/minute at rest) • Decrease in anxiety Activity/ADL's • Tolerating activity level • Increasing mobility level • Returning to baseline level of mobility Nutrition • Tolerating diet • Good swallowing function, no aspiration Medication Teaching • Patient understands indication for use of long and short acting medications before discharge Smoking Cessation/Counselling • No symptoms of nicotine withdrawal Follow-up Appointments/Services • Patient receives written confirmation of appointment dates and times Discharge Planning • Ensure functional and psychosocial issues addressed by allied team members prior to discharge • Home oxygen arranged if eligible

PHASE 3: Safe Transition (continued)

Patient progress corresponds with clinical pathway: **D: 8–12 h day shift** **E: evening shift, if applicable** **N: 8–12 h night shift**

Date: (yyyy/mm/dd) _____

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E ☐ Yes ☐ No Signature: _____ Initials: _____ Time: _____ NTV – circle above, VC _____

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N ☐ Yes ☐ No Signature: _____ Initials: _____ Time: _____ NTV – circle above, VC _____

Pharmacist Signature

Signature: _____ Initials: _____

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