COPD Education Project
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Introduction
The Christ Hospital of Cincinnati, Ohio launched an inpatient COPD Education program in hopes of preventing 30-day COPD-related readmissions in 2015.
• Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is the third leading cause of death in the United States.
• Affects approximately 24 million patients.
• Medicare is reviewing treatment and readmission rates.
• COPD data collection to enhance treatment, education, and prevent excessive COPD-related readmission.

Purpose
The aim of this study is to research and monitor all patients admitted with acute or chronic COPD. The process is being reevaluated to improve the following:
• Inpatient educational process.
• Smooth transition from phase 1 to phase 2.
• Increase pulmonary function testing post discharge.
• Ensure patient is on the correct prescribed, inhaled medication modality.

Design
Physicians order inpatient COPD Education via two order sets:
• COPD order set
• COPD Exacerbation order set.
Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT) provide bedside education on COPD-related topics and concerns.
• COPD Assessment Test (CAT) is obtained.
• Educational Materials are given to the patient.
• RRT assists in the coordination of care.

Data collection on readmission rates, order set usage, PFT, and CAT scores.

Methods
• Patients at The Christ Hospital admitted with acute or chronic COPD.
• Hospitalization frequency.
• Pulmonary Function Testing.
• COPD order set usage by physicians.

Results
• 511 COPD patients in 2015.
• 419 COPD patients in 2016.
• Hospitalized COPD patients decreased by 92 patients from 2015 to 2016.
• Readmission rates decreased by 1%.
• The order set was utilized 65.4% in 2015 and 65.2% in 2016.
• The average CAT was 20.8 in 2016 and 21.3 in 2017.
• Only 70 out of 188 patients had pulmonary function testing in 2017.

Conclusion
• There are still areas of opportunity, improvement, and research in the COPD Education Program.
• There was only a 1% improvement from 2015 to 2016, but there were 92 less patients admitted for COPD from 2015 to 2016.
• Areas of concern: PFT post discharge, patient placement in pulmonary rehabilitation, and appropriate inhaled medications.
• In 2017, COPD Educators implemented inspiratory flow measurement to ensure patients receive ultimate benefit from the inhaled medication modality.