

Proper documentation and diagnosis of COPD and utilization of EMR problem list: a Quality Assessment study

Axel Duval, Amjad Shaikh, Ian Yu, Eric Chyn

Department of Medicine, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Background: As recommended by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases (GOLD), the diagnosis and management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) should be predicated on the results of pulmonary function testing (PFT). Whether these guidelines were followed for the patients seen at the University Hospital Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) is of interest from a quality assessment and improvement perspective.

Methods: This retrospective chart review included patients seen during academic year 2021-2022 at the ACC for visit diagnoses of COPD to ascertain whether a PFT has been part of their diagnostic workup and management. In addition, we evaluated for the presence of COPD in each patient's active problem list, a tool within the EPIC electronic medical record (EMR) that may prove useful in streamlining key information in chronic disease management. When then randomized every sixth chart in this search to arrive at a convenience sample size of 65.

Results: We found that 75 percent of patients had PFT results or had been ordered as part of the diagnosis of COPD while 65 percent had COPD on their active problem list.

Conclusion: Our results demonstrate that there is an opportunity for improvement in increasing the use of PFTs in the proper diagnosis and management of COPD.