

Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

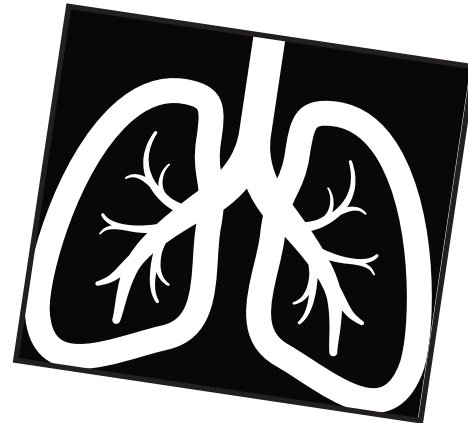
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

The Goal

The objective of the project was to introduce and evaluate a standardized admission order set - a set of detailed directions for health care providers. The COPD order set was based on guidelines developed by the Canadian Thoracic Society.

Standardized order sets help minimize incorrect or incomplete prescribing, standardize patient care, and ensure clarity when communicating medical orders.

Giving the proper medications, early referral to other services such as rehabilitation and planning early for discharge are all important parts of the order set.



The Process

Implementation was as follows:

- Creation of a single admission order set for COPD patients from the Emergency Department
- Successful integration into the electronic charting system for Calgary Zone
- Extensive engagement with site leadership and members of the care team, and on-site support

The Outcome

During the pilot, all other admission order sets for COPD were removed from the system. This ensured only the standardized order set was available. As a result, use of the standardized order sets increased from 10 per cent to 70 per cent. The new order set is now solely used for COPD patients at the Peter Loughheed Centre.

There is evidence of a decreased median length of stay of approximately one day for those COPD patients admitted through the new order set compared to those who were not admitted with this order set.

It is worth noting that the pilot was confined to a single site. However, once it was live in the electronic charting system, it was available to clinicians across Calgary zone. The word spread and more than 1500 patients have been admitted through the order set in the Calgary Zone to date. Action to spread the order set throughout the province has begun

The Team

This project is led by the COPD Working Group of the Respiratory Health SCN in partnership with Zone operations teams.