

COPD

Did you know?

COPD is the #9 most denied admission diagnosis by the RAC

COPD is a chronic condition and should not be the main reason for admission to the hospital **UNLESS** one of these **TWO** issues is present:

1. Acute Exacerbation

- a. Document acute exacerbation of COPD if admission is medically necessary and steroids and frequent nebulization treatments are required

2. Acute Respiratory Failure

- a. Document when the clinical criteria are present
 - i. **Requires 2 of the following 3:**
 1. Respiratory Distress – document this in the physical exam
 2. PaO₂ < 60mmHg (pulse ox < 88%) or higher oxygen requirements for COPD patients on oxygen
 3. PaCO₂ > 50 mmHg with a pH < 7.35 (means acute)

Chronic Respiratory Failure

DON'T FORGET to evaluate all patients with COPD for the presence of Chronic Respiratory Failure:

1. Home oxygen therapy for more than 16 hours a day (i.e. – not just at night)
 2. PCO₂ > 50 mmHg with a normal serum pH (indicating chronic compensation)
- **Chronic Respiratory Failure is a commonly missed diagnosis which greatly improves your patients' severity of illness.**
 - **Don't forget to document Acute on Chronic Respiratory Failure when present.**