Patient Information

Respiratory

COPD virtual ward – Phase 2
(Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)

What is COPD?
COPD affects a person’s breathing because of long-term damage to the lungs. In COPD airways have become narrowed (obstructed), and the air sacs have become damaged. Damaged has usually been caused by an irritation such as dust or most commonly, cigarette smoke. In a very small number of cases COPD may be hereditary.

Permanent changes start to take place if the irritation continues and the damage to the lungs becomes permanent. There are a number of treatments available that can help with symptoms, although they will not reverse the damage.

People with COPD may have symptoms including breathlessness, a cough, phlegm or sputum production and some wheeze.

Chronic, means the illness is long term.
Obstruction means blocked due to the narrowing of the airways preventing the free flow of air.
Pulmonary means the breathing system, lungs.
Disease refers to an illness.
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What is the virtual ward?
A virtual ward is a wraparound service, providing support in the community in the patient’s home, helping to keep patients in their preferred place of care. The virtual ward aims to facilitate the patient’s ability to remain at home, encouraging a collaborative and individualised patient care pathway.

What to expect?
You will be monitored daily remotely via the Docobo system. You will be provided with a leaflet explaining the device.

Throughout your time on the virtual ward you will be visited by the community COPD team at least once. We will be in touch regularly via phone.

You will be expected to answer some short questions and upload your observations daily by 10am.

What equipment will I be given?
You may be given a nebuliser box (full instructions will be provided by the nursing team).

You will be given a blood pressure (BP) cuff, pulse oximeter to measure your oxygen saturations, thermometer and an electronic device such a mobile phone to record your findings.

How long will I stay on the virtual ward for?
This will be dependent on your recovery and will be judged on each individual case.

What happens if I deteriorate?
Monday to Friday your observations will be monitored by a member of the team. Should this indicate a deterioration we will contact you to make sure you are ok and to give clinical advice where required.
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Please refer to your own specific instructions, please call us during our hours of service or out of hours please call 111 or in the case of emergency call 999.

What happens once I am discharged from the virtual ward?
We will inform the GP and will call you to arrange pick up time for the equipment.

What do I do if my equipment doesn’t work or is broken?
Please call the team or the number on the Docobo leaflet provided.

Personal parameters

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<td>Oxygen levels</td>
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<td>Respiratory rate</td>
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<td>Blood pressure</td>
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<td>Temperature</td>
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If your parameters fall outside of the agreed parameters please contact the team in hours or 111 out of hours.

Please make sure you are not wearing nail polish as this will affect your oxygen saturation level.

Community COPD service
Monday-Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday & Sunday 9:00am - 12:30pm
Mobile number 07553586364
Patient Information

You will be given a questionnaire when you are discharged from the virtual ward. We are committed to improving our services and your feedback is invaluable to us.

The trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7623 7005 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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