Welcome to edition eleven of our newsletter. In this edition:

- Message from the Project Team
- News
- Forthcoming meetings and events
- Recent meetings, events and poster presentations
- Project Team members - who we are and how to contact us

A message from the Project Team

**Hot off the press!** We have just been awarded funding by The Health Foundation to carry out a re-survey of the sites that participated in the NCROP in 2007. The findings from the original project were that most hospital units had made changes since the NCROP peer review visit but that many of the changes were incomplete. The aim of this additional survey is to see if these changes have now been completed and whether in cases where no or little change was apparent there is now evidence of progress. The importance of this re-survey is to estimate the time it takes to effect change and to conclude with greater confidence the barriers and facilitators to change within the NHS. At a time when funding is likely to be reduced it is vitally important that we do not waste efforts trying to make changes where the chance of success is low but that we maximise the likelihood of success by better understanding the factors that do enhance service development. The Department of Health and The Health Foundation have shown interest in the early NCROP study and your further feedback at this later stage will go to both these organisations to help inform the way that they implement the forthcoming COPD/respiratory clinical strategies that are about to be launched in all 4 countries of the UK. Commencement date of this final survey is subject to obtaining ethical approval; we hope to start in February 2010 and will be asking teams to complete an organisational proforma and final change diary. Teams will be offered an incentive to participate, in recognition of the additional work involved. The Project Team will be contacting all participants early in the New Year with further information.

**COPD Audit to conquer Europe!** Mike Roberts and the team have been very busy developing plans for a collaborative COPD audit across Europe. So far, 14 countries are interested in participating in such a project; discussions are afoot to agree the core set of data items for collection. The next step is to secure funding for this ambitious and exciting piece of work. We will keep you up to date as developments unfold.

News

- Those of you who attended the presentation given by Sue Hill and Robert Winter, National Clinical Directors for the Department of Health’s Respiratory Programme, at the BTS Winter meeting will know that the anticipated launch date of the draft National Strategy for COPD is March 2010. This will be followed by a period of consultation; as part of the consultation, regional events will be held at each of the Strategic Health Authorities in England. The COPD Audit Project Team will work closely with the Respiratory Team at the DH to support the events. Once we know the dates, we will share news on our website and via a mailing, so watch this space.
- The Lung Improvement Program (LIP) is hosted by NHS Improvement and has been set up to support improvement of respiratory services, including COPD, at a local level. It will support the development of clinical networks and the implementation of the National Strategy for COPD. The LIP team are currently collating examples of best and innovative practice in COPD care – why not share yours via the LIP website http://www.improvement.nhs.uk/lung/. Please also check the LIP website regularly for an announcement about a call for pilot projects in spring 2010.
- Have you improved care for COPD patients since your involvement in the National COPD audit? If so, you might be interested to know that the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) will be hosting their annual clinical awards in April 2010, and you may be eligible to enter! The deadline for entries is 12th February 2010. Please visit the HQIP website to find out more: http://www.hqip.org.uk/clinical-audit-awards-201/?utm_source=HQIP&utm_campaign=64f35b98a2-0912&utm_medium=email
Forthcoming events

- Professor Mike Roberts and Dr Rob Stone, Associate Directors of the National COPD Audit, will speak at the Improving the Quality of COPD services conference, which will be held in London on Tuesday 12th January 2010. For more information and to book a place, please visit the Healthcare Events website: http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=372
- Nancy Pursey, National COPD Audit Project Manager, will speak at the Clinical Audit and Improvement 2010 conference, which will be held in London on 9th -10th February 2010. For more information and to book a place, please visit the healthcare events website: http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=367

Recent events

- The Project Team presented 3 posters emerging from National COPD Audit 2008 data during the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Congress in Vienna, Austria 12-16th September 2009:
  1. NIV mortality in clinical practice - the 2008 UK National COPD Audit
    CM Roberts, RJ Buckingham, NA Pursey, D Lowe, RA Stone
  2. Acidosis in COPD exacerbations admitted to hospital - the UK National COPD Audit
    CM Roberts, RJ Buckingham, NA Pursey, D Lowe, RA Stone
  3. Social care and discharge planning for COPD patients: lessons from the UK 2008 Audit
    RA Stone, NA Pursey, RJ Buckingham, CM Roberts
- The Project Team presented 3 posters at the BTS Winter Meeting in London, 2nd-4th December 2009:
  1. Palliative care service provision for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) patients – mapping current and proposed service developments against palliative care gold standards. Buxton KL, Roberts CM, Buckingham RJ, Pursey NA, Stone RA.
  2. Is review in the chest clinic or GP surgery advantageous? Clues from the 2008 UK COPD Audit. Stone RA, Potter JM, Lowe D, Pursey NA, Buckingham RJ, Roberts CM.

** All posters are available on our website. Please visit http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/copd and click on the 'resources' sub-page **

NCROP papers


Project Team members – who we are and how to contact us

- Professor Mike Roberts, Associate Director
- Dr Rob Stone, Associate Director
- Nancy Pursey, Project Manager

For further information about the National COPD Audit 2008 or the NCROP please visit our website: http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/copd or contact the project team directly: copd.audit@rcplondon.ac.uk

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our colleagues from the Project Team