The National COPD Audit 2008 News
(under the auspices of The National COPD Resources and Outcomes Project [NCROP])

Welcome to the ninth edition of our newsletter. In this edition:
- A message from Professor Roberts, Associate Director of the National COPD Audit
- World COPD Day 2008
- National COPD audit 2008 reports
- The British Thoracic Society (BTS) Winter Meeting
- NCROP news: The European Respiratory Society (ERS) Congress; Palliative care paper
- The Health Foundation

A message from Professor Mike Roberts, Associate Director of the National COPD Audit

“The 2008 National COPD Audit has thanks to you been an outstanding success! With 98% of UK and Channel Island NHS Trusts participating together with 73% of Primary Care Organisations (PCOs), we have also received survey responses from nearly 2,800 patients and 2,700 GP surgeries. The good news is that there are many improvements since the 2003 audit with reductions in mortality and length of stay, more Consultants in post, more ITU beds available and more units offering services such as Facilitated Discharge and NIV. There are still areas needing attention and we must work together to improve process of care and decision making around ventilatory support and at a service level to widen palliative care provision for COPD. Your individualised benchmarked reports provide an opportunity to identify local strengths and weaknesses. It is vital to use these data to argue for better resources and organisation of care within your own Trust so that we may work towards providing the level of care for our patients they deserve. It’s really important to capitalise on the audit to achieve change and not to view this as a paper exercise. If we can further assist do not hesitate to contact the project team. Once again congratulations to all participants on this tremendous achievement.”

Professor Mike Roberts, Associate Director of the National COPD Audit 2008 speaking at the Parliamentary reception on World COPD Day
World COPD Day 2008
To coincide with World COPD Day on November 19th the project team hosted a reception at the House of Commons to share COPD Audit results with Members of Parliament, policy makers and eminent colleagues. The event was supported by 100 project participants from across the UK: respiratory physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, primary care representatives and patients who will help raise the profile of COPD and lobby for change. An Early Day Motion highlighting the key messages emerging from the audit was tabled by Dr Howard Stoate MP and 45 MPs signed up to it.

The National COPD audit 2008 reports
Acute units that participated in the National COPD audit 2008 have now received individualised organisational and clinical reports. Units can access their own reports by visiting the webtool http://copdaudit.rcplondon.ac.uk and entering existing login details. Primary Care Organisations (PCOs) that participated in the audit have also received an electronic copy of their own organisational report. National ‘St Elsewhere’ versions of the acute organisational report and PCO organisational reports are now available on the NCROP webpage http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/ncrop with the national version of the clinical report to follow in January 2009. The reports of the patient and GP element of the audit will also be available on the NCROP webpage in January 2009

The project team presented 10 abstracts from COPD Audit organisational data during the event (detailed below) and Professor Mike Roberts and Dr Robert Stone, Associate Directors of the National COPD audit, presented clinical audit results at a lunchtime meeting on Friday 5th December.

S15: Do we have enough specialist staff to manage acute COPD admissions in the UK? A Patel, R Kaiser, P Mallia, RJ Buckingham, RA Stone, CM Roberts
S16: The Organisation of Care for Acute COPD in UK Hospitals: Progress since 2003 A Patel, R Kaiser, P Mallia, RJ Buckingham, RA Stone, CM Roberts
S17: Provision of Care for Acute COPD in UK Hospitals: A Survey of Early Discharge Schemes A Patel, R Kaiser, P Mallia, RJ Buckingham, RA Stone, CM Roberts
S27: Palliative care service provision for COPD patients - results from the 2008 National COPD audit Buxton K, Roberts CM, Buckingham RJ, Pursey N, Stone R.
P20: Self reported good practice and innovation delivered by Primary Care Organisations for COPD patients Barratt S, Dodd JW, Buckingham RJ, Pursey NA, Lowe D, Roberts CM, Stone RA
S152: Characteristics of patients prior to hospitalisation with exacerbation of COPD Barratt S, Dodd JW, Buckingham RJ, Pursey NA, Lowe D, Roberts CM, Stone RA
P197: Are we meeting the standards for provision of NIV services in the UK? : results from the National COPD Audit 2008 A Patel, R Kaiser, P Mallia, RJ Buckingham, RA Stone, CM Roberts

The BTS Winter Meeting programme and abstract book, which includes the above abstracts, is available at: http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/EducationHub/WinterMeeting/tabid/167/Default.aspx

NCROP News
Dr Robert Stone, Dr Harold Hosker and Nancy Pursey attended this years European Respiratory Society (ERS) conference, held in Berlin, October 2008 to present 6 abstracts during the event. The posters have now been uploaded to the project’s web-pages and are available at: http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/ncrop. A paper describing palliative care data that emerged from the NCROP was published in October. CM Roberts, A Seiger, RJ Buckingham, and RA Stone. Clinician perceived good practice in end-of-life care for patients with COPD. Palliative Medicine 2008 22: 855-858.

The Health Foundation
The Health Foundation, funders of the NCROP, have recently announced details of a new award programme. Closing the Gap aims to improve the quality of care delivered to patients by bridging the gap between best known practice and the routine delivery of care. The closing date for application is Friday 27th March 2009 at 5pm. For further information and to apply, please visit The Health Foundation website: http://www.health.org.uk/current_work/open_for_applications/closing_the_gap_1.html

Contact us For further information about the National COPD Audit 2008 or indeed the NCROP please see our website: http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/college/ceeu/ceeu_copd_home.htm, or contact us at: copd.audit@rcplondon.ac.uk