

**Summary of COPD Joint Working Project between  
Darlington CCG & GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)  
June 2016 – October 2017**

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**Brief outline of context:**

In 2012, the COPD Commissioning Toolkit reported around 23,000 annual COPD deaths in the UK which is the same as a COPD death every 20 minutes.<sup>1</sup> The report also identified that COPD was the 2nd most common cause of emergency hospital admissions with around a third of COPD related hospital admissions requiring readmissions within a month of discharge.<sup>1</sup> The total annual direct healthcare cost of COPD to the NHS in 2012 was estimated to be over £800 million.<sup>1</sup>

**Identification of Local Needs**

Darlington CCG highlighted COPD as an area of focus within its strategic plan and that a Joint Working Project with GSK could support their goal of improving patient care.

**Project objectives:**

- To improve patient outcomes and equity of care of patients with COPD across Darlington CCG by standardising patient reviews based on the NICE COPD Guideline 2010 and optimising patient's medication in line with the local County Durham and Darlington Respiratory Drug Formulary.
- Upskill /improve Health Care Professionals (HCP) ability to deliver a thorough patient review based on NICE COPD Guidelines
- Improve equity of care by reducing the variability in the current management of COPD across practices.
- Improve the quality of the COPD consultation received, as assessed by patients.
- Appropriate use of medicines in line with current NICE guidance and the local formulary.

**Planned interventions during the period of the project:**

- Educational programme to be delivered by a Respiratory Nurse Specialist employed by Darlington CCG who would also act as a mentor and assist practices throughout the duration of project as required.
- Patient review in the practices as well as mentorship clinics, supported by the specialist nurse where required. *[NB: GSK were not involved in patient review and had no access to patient identifiable data].*
- Patient experience questionnaires to be completed by patients who were reviewed during the project life *(distributed and collated by the NHS)*
- HCP experience questionnaires to be collected at the end of the project *(distributed and collated by the NHS)*

**Measurements of improvement:**

- Participation in the project was to be offered to all 11 practices in the Darlington CCG. Jointly agreed measures were to be assessed using the following tools:
- The Patient Outcome and Information Service Plus (POINTS Plus), provided by GSK, was to be used to benchmark and also monitor practice level activity in order to highlight areas for patient improvement. The areas selected by practices would be in line with NICE standards for the management of patients with COPD.
- HCP and Patient Experience Questionnaires provided by GSK, would be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the education of the patient and the HCP.

**Outcomes:**

- All 11 practices within Darlington CCG signed up and fully completed the project.
- Adherence to NICE standards in the 4 areas of focus chosen at baseline showed an improvement. These were the recording of exacerbations, self management plan, any record related to Pulmonary Rehabilitation and inhaler technique. The recording of exacerbations increased from 54% to 59%, self-management plan

from 45% to 46%, any record related to Pulmonary Rehabilitation from 28% to 53% and inhaler technique from 60% to 65%.<sup>2</sup>

- The project exceeded the target of 90% of MRC 3 and above patients being recorded as having had an annual review in the last 12 months, achieving 91%.<sup>2</sup>.
- The project missed the target of 80% of patients having had their MRC score recorded in the last 12 months achieving 75%.<sup>2</sup>.
- 72 of 105 Patient Experience Questionnaires distributed to patients across the 11 practices were returned:
  - **45%** of patients reported that their understanding of how their COPD affected them had increased a little/a lot
  - **53 %** of patients reported that their knowledge of how to use their inhaler had increased a little/a lot
  - **55%** of patients reported that their understanding of how to take care of their COPD had increased a little/a lot
  - **63%** of patients reported that their knowledge of what to do if their symptoms got worse had increased a little/a lot
  - **61 %** of patients reported that their understanding of why they had been given the type of medication they had increased a little/a lot
- There was an increase in adherence by class to the local County Durham and Darlington COPD Formulary with an increase of “On Formulary” prescribing: SABA from 1372 prescriptions to 1405, LAMA from 1360 to 2149, LABA/LAMA combination from 88 to 259 and ICS/LABA from 226 to 607 prescriptions<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Summary:**

Joint Working between the NHS and the GlaxoSmithKline can lead to measureable healthcare benefits for patients.

#### **References**

1. Department of Health. Commissioning Toolkit for COPD. 2012
2. POINTS Plus COPD Darlington CCG Cluster Report provided by Harvey Walsh, data analysis by GSK, Date of Preparation 22nd November 2017