

Pharmacotherapy Management of COPD Exacerbations

COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States. COPD exacerbation often leads to hospitalization. Proper medication after hospitalization or an ED visit may help to avoid additional exacerbations. Systemic corticosteroids and inhaled bronchodilators are the most effective treatments for COPD exacerbations.

HEDIS/QARR measures the use of those therapies in members 40 years of age and older who have had an ED visit or acute inpatient discharge within the measurement year. We are looking for PCPs to dispense the following medications:

- A systemic corticosteroid within 14 days of the event
- A bronchodilator within 30 days of the event

Make sure you are coding correctly. Acute Bronchitis is frequently miscoded as Chronic Bronchitis. Please make certain that your encounter form differentiates between the two.

Description	ICD-9 CM Diagnosis
Chronic Bronchitis	491
Emphysema	492
COPD	496

If you have any questions, please call Quality Management at 718-794-6049.