

The Swedish National Airway Register (SNAR): development, design and utility to date

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ABSTRACT

Background: The Swedish National Airway Register (SNAR) was initiated in 2013 to ensure and improve the quality of care for patients with asthma and COPD.

Aim: To describe the development and design of SNAR, and to study the 2019 data to evaluate its potential utility related to improvement of quality of care.

Methods: SNAR includes data from patients with asthma (both children and adults) and COPD from primary, secondary and tertiary care, and also, for COPD inpatient care. Data on diagnostic investigations (e.g. spirometry, blood sample, skin prick test), symptom-scores, comorbidities and prescribed treatments are registered. The registrations are entered manually by healthcare professionals, or directly transferred from electronic medical records to a web-based platform.

Results: In 2019, 1000 clinics participated and data were directly transferred by about 88% of them. The register included data on 205,833 patients with asthma and 80,372 with COPD (of these, 5% had both diagnoses). Registrations of new patients and follow-up visits from primary and secondary/tertiary care in 2019 were completed for 75,707 patients with asthma (11,818 children <12 yr, 6545 adolescents 12–17 yr, and 57,344 adults >17 yr) and 38,117 with COPD. Depending on age and disease group, 43–77% had performed spirometry, 36–65% Asthma Control Test, and 60% COPD Assessment Test. The prevalence of current smoking was about 2% in adolescents, 10% in adults with asthma, and 34% in COPD. For these, smoking cessation support was offered to 27%, 38% and 51%, respectively. Overall, limited data were available on investigation of allergy, 6-min walk test, patient education and written treatment plans. Regarding asthma, sex-differences in disease management were evident.

Conclusion: SNAR has cumulatively registered data from over 270,000 individuals, and the register is important for patients, caregivers, authorities, politicians and researchers to evaluate the effect of treatment and to ensure high and equal quality of care nationwide.

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Introduction

The Swedish National Airway Register

The global prevalence of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) varies between countries [1–3]. In Sweden, the prevalence of asthma is estimated to be 7% in children aged 7–8 years [4], and about 10% in adolescents and adults [2,5]. Approximately 0.5% of the general population suffers from severe asthma [6,7]. In parallel with the decrease in smoking rates in Sweden [8],

the prevalence of COPD has decreased and is nowadays around 8% [9,10]. Nevertheless, both asthma and COPD are associated with a high burden of symptoms, recurrent exacerbations and extensive health-care utilizations [11,12]. The main cost driver in COPD are hospitalizations due to comorbidities [13,14], and costs for hospitalization, medications and work/school absenteeism are substantial in asthma [15,16].

An important task for a national quality register is to provide a longitudinal and nationwide survey of the

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care of patients with obstructive lung diseases in order to identify inequalities, sub-optimal care and knowledge gaps. The Swedish National Airway Register (SNAR) [17] was initiated in 2013 as a result of merging two existing registers: the National COPD Register (RiKS KOL, initiated 2009) and the National Asthma Register (NAR, initiated 2009). The quality register is comprehensive, including data from patients with asthma (both children, adolescents and adults) and COPD from primary, secondary and tertiary care as well as hospitalized COPD patients. In 2015, the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfares published new national guidelines for care and treatment of patients with asthma and COPD [18]. At that time, the variables in SNAR were modified to harmonize with these recommendations, which presents a unique opportunity to use data from SNAR to evaluate the effect of this national effort. Several papers presenting COPD data from SNAR have been published [19–22]; however, a comprehensive presentation of SNAR across the spectrum of obstructive lung disease has not yet been undertaken. Accordingly, this paper aims to describe the development and design of SNAR, and to study the 2019 data to evaluate its potential utility related to improvement of quality of care.

Methods

Registrations

Following a physician diagnosis of asthma and/or COPD and obtaining informed consent, the registrations are directly transferred from electronic medical

records (EMR) or entered manually by health-care professionals to a web-based platform supported by the Centre of Registers Västra Götaland, Sweden [23].

The registrations include data about the current level of health care (primary, secondary, tertiary or inpatient care), symptom-scores, comorbidities, diagnostic investigations (e.g. spirometry, blood sample, skin prick test) and prescribed treatment (both pharmacological and non-pharmacological) (Table 1). In Sweden, spirometry is predominantly performed according to the ERS/ATS guidelines [24], and both pre- and post-bronchodilator values can be registered in SNAR. Allergic sensitization can be diagnosed either by skin prick test or by analysing allergen-specific IgE antibodies to airborne or food allergens. Current smoking is defined as daily smoking or smoking cessation during the last 6 months. Smoking cessation support is registered when nicotine replacement therapy or motivational interviewing is offered to current smokers. The history of exacerbations in the year previous to registration is documented. For patients with asthma, the Asthma Control Test (ACT) is used to detect the level of asthma control, and an ACT score ≤ 19 is defined as uncontrolled asthma [25–27]. The COPD Assessment Test (CAT) measures the health status impairment in COPD [28], and a CAT score ≥ 10 indicates an impairment of importance [11]. A CAT score ≥ 18 is a suggested redefinition of a high symptom burden [29]. Further, regarding COPD, severity of airflow limitation is based on FEV₁% predicted and divided into the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) stage 1–4 (mild to very severe COPD), and

Table 1. An overview of data and variables in the Swedish National Airway Register (SNAR).

Organization and equipment	Characteristics	Comorbidities	Health status and symptoms
Type of care ^a	COPD diagnosis	Anxiety/depression	Asthma Control Test (ACT) ³
Visit date	Asthma diagnosis	Diabetes mellitus	COPD Assessment Test (CAT) ²
Resources per week (nurse hours/week)	Allergy diagnosis	Heart disease	mMRC-dyspnea scale ²
University credits (nurse)	Smoking habits/Pack year	Hypertension	Interprofessional care
Medical responsibility (physician)	Passive smoking	Osteoporosis	Physiotherapist
Access to interprofessional collaboration	Spirometry	Sleep apnoea syndrome	Dietician
Access to smoking cessation support	Saturation ²	Alpha-1-Antitrypsin deficiency ²	Occupational therapist
Spirometer	Action if saturation <93%	Lung neoplasms ²	Psychologist
Oximeter	FeNO ³	Nasal polyps ³	Physical capacity
Nebulizer	Provocations ³	Eczema ³	Physical activity (days/week)
FeNO	Investigation of allergy ⁴	Rhinitis ³	6-minute walk test ²
Oxygen equipment	Blood sample (e.g. eos, IgE) ³	COVID-19	Patient education
Characteristics	Skin prick test ²	Pharmacological treatment	Smoking cessation support
Sex	Triggers	For COPD ²	Structured patient education ⁶
Age	Disease severity	For asthma ³	<i>Individual</i>
Height	Number of exacerbations ⁵	For allergy ³	<i>In group</i>
Weight	Number of hospitalizations ⁵	Antibiotics and/or OCS	Written treatment plan
Body Mass Index (BMI)	Date of death	Influenza vaccination ⁵	
Action if low BMI (<22) ²		Pneumococcal vaccination	

^aPrimary, secondary, tertiary or inpatient care (inpatient care only for COPD) ²Registered only for patients with COPD ³Registered only for patients with asthma ⁴Skin prick test and/or allergen-specific IgE antibodies ⁵Last 12 months ⁶Last five years.

Abbreviations: FeNO = fractional nitric oxide (NO) concentration in exhaled breath. OCS = Oral corticosteroids. Provocations = Exercise challenge tests, Dry air, Mannitol, Metacholine or Histamine. Eos = eosinophils. IgE = Immunoglobulin E.

further classified into categories A, B, C or D based on CAT score and exacerbation history according to the GOLD document [11]. The 6-min walk test is a self-paced test of walking capacity in COPD [30]. Patient education is a structured education designed to improve patient knowledge of the diseases, treatment, inhalation technique, self-care and risk factors. The goal of a written treatment plan (asthma action plan/management plan) is to strengthen self-care, reduce/prevent exacerbations and emergency department visits [11,12].

The current study based on SNAR was approved by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority (2019-04915) and includes data recorded in SNAR from 2014 to 2019. Due to technical difficulties during implementation registrations in 2013 were excluded. Mortality data were collected from The National Cause of Death Register at The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare.

Statistical analyses

SAS software (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC, USA) was used for data management and statistical analyses. Data extraction was conducted 3 February 2020 and included 1) new registrations of patients 2014–2019, 2) cumulative number of registered patients 2014–2019, and 3) registrations of variables for each unique patient from the last 15 months before their last visit in 2019. Analyses were based on manually entered and directly transferred data from primary and secondary/tertiary care. In directly transferred data, missing data on a particular variable was interpreted as negative/not performed. For comparison between groups Fisher's Exact test (lowest 1-sided p-value multiplied by 2) was used for dichotomous variables. A p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Numbers of registered patients

Table 2 demonstrates new registrations and cumulative numbers of registered patients, as well as deceased patients in the years 2014–2019. Since 2014, 15,225–43,006 new patients with asthma, and 7456–16,843 with COPD have been registered annually. In 2019, 205,833 patients with asthma were included in the register, and 80,372 with COPD, respectively (Table 2). Of these, 14,324 had both an asthma and COPD diagnosis (Asthma COPD Overlap Syndrome, ACOS); and henceforth in this paper, these individuals are analysed as COPD patients.

Registrations in 2019

In 2019, clinic participation in SNAR varied, with some counties having only one participating clinic whilst in other counties all clinics participated. Counties with the highest number of registrations were Stockholm, Västra Götaland, Skåne, Värmland and Gävleborg. In total, 853 primary care clinics, 125 secondary/tertiary care clinics (whereof 62 were paediatric clinics) and 22 inpatient wards were included. Data had been manually entered for 12% and directly transferred from EMRs for 88% of the clinics.

A total of 75,707 patients with asthma had one or more registrations of a new patient visit and/or follow-up visit in 2019. Of these, 15.6% were children <12 years (mean age 6.5 years, 38.4% girls), 8.6% were adolescents 12–17 years (mean age 14.9 years, 45.8% girls) and 75.7% were adults >17 years (mean age 53.9 years, 62.5% women). Regarding COPD, 38,117 patients had registrations (mean age 73.0 years, 57.3% women) distributed by GOLD 1–4; 14.6% GOLD 1, 56.3% GOLD 2, 24.2% GOLD 3 and 5.0% GOLD 4. Additionally, by GOLD A–D; 27.2% GOLD A, 59.5% GOLD B, 1.9% GOLD C and 11.0% GOLD D.

Children with asthma (<12 yr)

Spirometry data were available from 42.6% of the children, and 14.8% had undergone investigation of allergy. Data on ACT were available for 35.8%, and of these, uncontrolled asthma was reported by 24.0%. Patient education and written treatment plans were reported for 29.3% and 17.5%, respectively. A higher proportion of boys than girls had undergone investigation of allergy, and had received a written treatment plan, while more girls had uncontrolled asthma (Table 3).

Adolescents with asthma (12–17 yr)

Among adolescents with asthma, spirometry data were reported for 77.3%, and 27.2% had undergone investigation of allergy. The proportion of current smokers was 1.9%, whereof 26.6% had been offered smoking cessation support. Data on ACT were available from 65.1%, and among them, 30.0% had uncontrolled asthma. A higher proportion of girls than boys were current smokers and had uncontrolled asthma, while more boys had undergone spirometry, received patient education and a written treatment plan (Table 3).

Adults with asthma (>17 yr)

Data on spirometry and investigation of allergy were available from 57.9% and 15.3% adults with asthma, respectively. The prevalence of current smoking was

Table 2. New registrations and cumulative number of patients in the Swedish National Airway Register (SNAR) 2014–2019, stratified by asthma and COPD, respectively.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New registrations of patients with asthma*						
Manually or directly transferred data, n	15,225	23,673	38,161	43,006	41,411	34,777
Cumulative number of patients with asthma*						
Manually entered data, n	6126	14,679	24,855	35,638	44,218	52,870
Directly transferred data, n	18,813	34,429	63,368	96,918	131,359	158,837
Manually or directly transferred data, n	24,804	48,478	86,639	129,645	171,056	205,833
Deceased, n	75	256	640	1409	2567	4073
*Irrespective of concomitant COPD diagnosis						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New registrations of patients with COPD*						
Manually or directly transferred data, n	7456	10,224	16,247	16,843	13,988	10,160
Cumulative number of patients with COPD*						
Manually entered data, n	6391	10,919	16,154	21,545	25,603	28,924
Directly transferred data, n	6752	12,882	24,716	37,371	48,589	56,216
Manually or directly transferred data, n	12,910	23,134	39,381	56,224	70,212	80,372
Deceased, n	335	1037	2272	4543	7676	11,467

*Irrespective of concomitant asthma diagnosis.

9.6%, and 37.6% of these had been offered smoking cessation support. ACT had been used in 44.2% of the patients, and of these 38.2% had uncontrolled asthma. Of the adults, 32.8% had undergone patient education and 6.3% received a written treatment plan. A higher proportion of women than men were current smokers and had an uncontrolled asthma, while a higher proportion of men had undergone spirometry, patient education and received a written treatment plan (Table 3).

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Among patients with COPD, spirometry data were available for 71.5% of the patients, and a 6-min walk test for 5.2%. Further, 33.5% were current smokers, of whom 51.0% had been offered smoking cessation support. CAT was recorded in 59.8% of the patients; of these 70.7% had a CAT score ≥ 10 , and 25.7% had a score ≥ 18 . Patient education and written treatment plan were reported for 46.2% and 9.5%, respectively.

The prevalence of current smoking was higher among women than men, while other disease management characteristics were quite similar between men and women (Table 4).

Discussion

Sweden has a long history of using national quality registers with the aim of supporting improvement of care and treatment [23,31–34]. To date, SNAR is implemented in all counties in Sweden and in total over 270,000 patients with asthma and COPD have been registered. The register provides a unique insight into the entire Swedish healthcare system: primary care, paediatrics, internal medicine, pulmonology and allergology in adults and children in both general and university hospitals. Regarding COPD, the register also includes data on inpatient care. Our result revealed an insufficient adherence to the national guidelines for the

Table 3. Children, adolescents and adults with asthma only with registrations in the Swedish National Airway Registrar (SNAR) in 2019 including both new patient registrations and follow-up visits for existing registry patients in primary and secondary/tertiary care.

	Children (<12 yr) with asthma			Adolescents (12–17 yr) with asthma			Adults (>17 yr) with Asthma		
	Girls n = 4543	Boys n = 7275	p-value	Girls n = 2998	Boys n = 3547	p-value	Women n = 35,842	Men n = 21,502	p-value
Spirometry, n (%)	1913 (42.1)	3123 (42.9)	0.390	2265 (75.6)	2797 (78.9)	0.002	20,316 (56.7)	12,896 (60.0)	<0.001
Investigation of allergy, n (%)	613 (13.5)	1131 (15.5)	0.002	788 (26.3)	994 (28.0)	0.120	5471 (15.3)	3300 (15.3)	0.800
Current smoking (%) ^a				53 (2.8)	26 (1.1)	<0.001	2718 (10.0)	1491 (8.9)	<0.001
Offered smoking cessation, n (%) ^b				17 (32.1)	4 (15.4)	0.190	1040 (38.3)	542 (36.4)	0.230
Asthma Control Test (ACT), n (%)	1571 (34.6)	2656 (36.5)	0.035	1863 (62.1)	2396 (67.6)	<0.001	15,506 (43.3)	9846 (45.8)	<0.001
ACT ≤ 19 , n (%) ^b	424 (27.0)	602 (22.7)	0.001	744 (39.9)	534 (22.3)	<0.001	6374 (41.1)	3307 (33.6)	<0.001
Patient education, n (%)	1307 (28.8)	2156 (29.6)	0.320	1453 (48.5)	1909 (53.8)	<0.001	11,510 (32.1)	7273 (33.8)	<0.001
Written treatment plan, n (%)	746 (16.4)	1328 (18.3)	0.011	634 (21.1)	924 (26.1)	<0.001	2181 (6.1)	1432 (6.7)	0.006

^aPercentages calculated for those with complete data on smoking habits.

^bPercentages calculated for current smokers and patients with data on ACT, respectively.

P-values for differences between groups. Bold values indicating p-values < 0.05 .

Table 4. Patients with COPD (including ACOS) with registrations in the Swedish National Airway Register (SNAR) in 2019 including both new patient registrations and follow-up visits for existing registry patients in primary and secondary/tertiary care.

	Patients with COPD		p-value
	Women n = 21,831	Men n = 16,286	
Spirometry, n (%)	15,540 (71.2)	11,704 (71.9)	0.150
Current smoking (%) ^a	6310 (34.7)	4450 (31.9)	<0.001
Offered smoking cessation, n (%) ^b	3172 (50.3)	2317 (52.1)	0.069
COPD Assessment Test (CAT), n (%)	13,065 (59.8)	9717 (59.7)	0.730
CAT >10, n (%) ^b	9184 (70.3)	6925 (71.3)	0.110
CAT >18, n (%) ^b	3403 (26.0)	2441 (25.1)	0.120
6-minute walk test, n (%)	1184 (5.4)	817 (5.0)	0.082
Patient education, n (%)	10,163 (46.6)	7434 (45.6)	0.081
Written treatment plan, n (%)	2108 (9.7)	1515 (9.3)	0.250

^aPercentages calculated for those with complete data on smoking habits.

^bPercentages calculated for current smokers and patients with data on CAT, respectively.

P-values for differences between groups. Bold values indicating p-values <0.05.

care of patients with asthma or COPD. In particular, investigation of allergy and offered smoking cessation support are areas that need improvement. Furthermore, many patients have not received a written treatment plan and education about their disease as recommended. Regarding asthma, sex-differences in disease management were evident. These findings emphasize the importance of registration in order to further increase the utility of SNAR as a tool to increase quality of care.

A major strength with the register is the implementation of directly transferred data. During the registers first years, data were manually registered by health-care professionals with support of registry coordinators with high skills in obstructive lung diseases. In general, manual entry provides data of high quality but results in fewer registrations. Over time a clear shift in the registration process has been observed towards an increasing proportion of directly transferred data from EMRs to the registry. Today, the majority of the data are directly transferred, which has increased the number of registrations substantially. Direct transfer to the registry is essential for multiple reasons. 1. Data transmission is not time-consuming and does not depend on the goodwill of the health-care provider. 2. It facilitates a higher number of registered individuals, which increases the completeness of the register. 3. It provides the possibility to build in innovative solutions in the EMR that give direct feedback from the register to health-care providers for quality control.

Although there is an increased coverage related to direct transfer, a limitation is that there are missing reports related to the comprehensiveness of the data and variables

in SNAR. Missing reports may be due to absence of data, incorrect data transfer or under-documentation in the EMR. The latter is an important marker for the quality of care and synchronized templates between EMRs and SNAR are of importance and may both improve the representativeness of the data in SNAR and adherence to guidelines in local practice. Register coordinators are continuously working to maintain secure data transfer by supporting health-care units with synchronized templates and validating incoming data. By validating data, the representativeness of each variable can be assessed [23].

As described above, directly transferred data have increased the completeness of the register by increasing the number of participating counties, clinics and registered patients. Further, it has reduced the risk that only clinics with more competence and interest in asthma and COPD registers in SNAR. However, despite the high number of patients in the register, its completeness needs to be considered and discussed. In general, asthma is both under- and over-diagnosed [35] and COPD is still highly under-diagnosed [36], which complicates assessment of completeness. Thus, in the register, both diseases are based on physician-diagnosis and with >200,000 registered patients with asthma, we estimate that SNAR represents about half of all diagnosed patients with asthma on maintenance treatment with inhaled corticosteroids. Further, with >80,000 patients with COPD, it covers of about 85% of diagnosed patients with moderate to very severe COPD. However, due to the under-diagnosis, individuals that have not yet been identified in healthcare are missing from the statistics. In our opinion, SNAR already has a fair completeness for asthma and COPD outpatient health care in Sweden, although the goal is to increase both the total number of patients registered, and also the amount of data registered per patient.

Data from SNAR will provide healthcare professionals, as well as authorities and politicians, with indications of important areas of improvement in respiratory healthcare. Therefore, this paper aimed to present some descriptive clinical data from 2019 and earlier to provide a register overview. Spirometry data from the last 15 months were available on a high proportion of patients, indicating relatively good adherence to guidelines recommendations. Physicians in Sweden report that spirometry is used frequently in primary care [36], but insufficient interpretation skills are a common problem [36,37]. A two-day spirometry training has been implemented in Sweden [38], and we can speculate that the targeted intervention has increased the number of spirometry tests on national level.

The prevalence of current smoking was higher among patients with COPD (34%), and also among those with

asthma (10%), compared to the general population in Sweden (7%) [8]. In the general population, there were no differences by sex. In contrast, data from SNAR showed a higher prevalence of current smoking among women than men, both in asthma and COPD. Importantly, this was also seen among adolescents, with nearly 3% of the girls being current smokers compared to 1% of boys. Furthermore, despite strong recommendations [11,12,18] smoking cessation support was only offered to less than half of the smokers. Smoking cessation is one of the most important therapeutic goals in asthma and COPD patients. It is the only intervention that may stop the progression of COPD [39] and is associated with considerable improvement in lung function and better symptom control in asthma [40]. It is essential to improve the availability of smoking cessation support, not least among younger patients with asthma being a key risk group for developing COPD later in life.

The results indicate that only about half of the patients in Sweden with asthma and COPD were given the opportunity to use the self-administrated questionnaires ACT and CAT, which are highly recommended instruments for use within the clinic [11,12,18]. However, uncontrolled asthma was reported by 25–44% of those tested with ACT, more frequently in girls and women than in boys and men. Further, about 70% of tested patients with COPD, had a CAT score ≥ 10 , and 25% had a high burden of symptoms with a CAT score ≥ 18 . Patients with uncontrolled asthma and high symptom burden in COPD are important to identify. These patients are in need of follow-up visits, and treatment should be adjusted according to guidelines [11,12]. This is clearly an area for further improvement of care.

The proportion of patients with available data on investigation of allergy, the 6-min walk test, patient education, and written treatment plans was limited, indicating either low adherence to current guidelines or incomplete data capture. Nevertheless, other studies have also shown low adherence to, for example, action plans; in one study only about 3% of patients with asthma in the USA had received an action plan [41]. Furthermore, despite limited data, we could observe sex-differences of importance especially among those with asthma; a higher proportion of women than men were current smokers and had uncontrolled asthma, while it seems to be a trend that men receive more efforts in terms of spirometry, investigation of allergy, patient education, and written action plans. Again, this seems to be an area where improvement and more equal access to care is warranted. In order to provide an up-to-date perspective on the care and treatment, statistics and annual reports are visualized on the register website [17].

Future research directions include the possibility to link quality registers with other national registers using the national ID number of each Swedish resident, which makes the large database in SNAR a unique data resource for respiratory research. For example, the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare maintains health data registers such as the National Causes of Death Register, the Medical Birth Register, the National Patient Register and the Swedish Prescribed Drug Register [42]. Further, data about sociodemographic aspects such as income and educational level can be provided by the Longitudinal-integrated database for health insurance and labour market studies (LISA) of Statistics Sweden [43]. These registers include data for the entire Swedish population, and when linking data, this can strengthen the completeness of SNAR. Furthermore, SNAR also provides opportunities to study pharmacological treatment and comorbidities in relation to obstructive lung diseases, as well as the co-variation between asthma and COPD. Another important quality register aspect is the opportunity to include new data on short notice. For example, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic variables have been included to monitor the incidence of COVID-19 among registered asthma and COPD patients.

Clinical implications of SNAR include the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of public health interventions concerning asthma and COPD. SNAR is implemented in all counties in Sweden, and the majority of the data are directly transferred from EMRs to the registry. To ensure data transfer and to support the counties, synchronized templates are designed. Furthermore, data from 2019 indicate that adherence to guidelines has clear potential for improvements, and in particular, investigation of allergy and smoking cessation are areas of importance, but also patient education and the use of written action plans. Further, equal care is of importance, but data from SNAR indicate an issue in this regard, especially with regards to asthma, and such sex-differences in healthcare need to be better considered and rectified.

Conclusion

SNAR has cumulatively registered over 270,000 individuals and provides a unique insight into the care of patients with asthma and COPD in Sweden. The register is important for patients, caregivers, authorities, politicians and researchers to evaluate the impact of and adherence to local, national and international guidelines. The current analysis of data from 2019 gives an overview of the clinical characteristics of patients with asthma or

COPD in Swedish health care and suggests room for improvement for guideline adherence and quality of care.

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