

Implementing an Evidence-Based COPD Hospital Discharge Protocol: A Narrative Review and Expert Recommendations

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7 STRATEGIES

for implementation of the discharge protocol

Audit and feedback

- Regular audits should be conducted and compliance with the discharge protocol should be measured
- Regular feedback should be provided to relevant staff

Change champions

Local 'change champions' should be selected and made responsible for:

- Providing additional training and motivating staff
- Performing audits and providing regular feedback to staff
- Monitoring compliance
- Driving protocol implementation across multiple hospitals

Reminders

Physical reminders

Checklists, goal sheets, posters

and/or

Digital reminders

Screen savers, alarms, EMR alerts should be used to prompt staff to carry out the discharge protocol

HCP education

Training materials and meetings should be provided to arm relevant staff with the appropriate knowledge and understanding of the individual elements and overall benefits of the protocol

Barrier identification and tailored interventions

- Interviews, focus group discussions and surveys should be performed to identify barriers to successful protocol implementation
- Tailored interventions can then be designed to address these barriers

Multidisciplinary collaboration

- The discharge protocol, including roles and responsibilities, completion rates, and barrier identification and resolution should be discussed at MDT meetings (including both primary and secondary care) to encourage effective collaboration
- Comprehensive discharge summaries and their timely transmission to primary care colleagues should be prioritised

Financial incentives

If possible, hospitals should be given financial incentives to implement the discharge protocol

COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; EMR, electronic medical record; HCP, healthcare professional; MDT, multidisciplinary team

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