

**Table S1 Clinicodemographic characteristics of patients by age group**

	Age <65 (n=1798)		Age 65–74 (n=2683)		Age 75–84 (n=2472)		Age 85+ (n=561)	
	[median age 59]		[median age 70]		[median age 79]		[median age 87]	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Male	50	895	53	1409	54	1330	54	304
Living alone	30	500/1676	36	914/2516	45	1047/2347	53	276/522
Living in own home without social care	83	1197/1440	74	1612/2168	61	1264/2083	46	225/493
Living in own home with social care	10	144/1440	15	332/2168	22	458/2083	27	131/493
Other (sheltered 50%; institutional 36%)	7	99/1440	10	224/2168	17	361/2083	28	137/493
Performance status								
Normal activity/strenuous activity limited	45	709/1590	30	716/2359	24	531/2182	18	87/483
Limited activity but self care	40	641/1590	48	1128/2359	48	1056/2182	44	213/483

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	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Limited self care/bed or chair bound	15	240/1590	22	515/2359	27	595/2182	38	183/483
Documented co-morbidity								
Heart disease	25	455	39	1041	44	1082	46	259
Stroke	3	60	5	145	7	180	7	41
Other chest problems	11	203	11	294	11	259	9	53
Diabetes	8	147	10	272	11	267	10	55
Locomotor problems	10	177	12	316	14	338	15	83
Visual impairment	1	23	2	65	4	87	8	43
None of the above	55	984	42	1117	37	911	36	199
One of the above	34	606	41	1103	41	1018	41	229
Two or more of the above	12	208	17	463	22	543	24	133
Current smoker	60	1046/1747	44	1155/2594	29	671/2313	17	83/491

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	[median age 59]		[median age 70]		[median age 79]		[median age 87]	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Ex-smoker	38	664/1747	53	1366/2594	66	1537/2313	71	351/491
Lifelong non-smoker	2	37/1747	3	73/2594	5	105/2313	12	57/491
40+ pack years of smoking (ex/current)	57	508/898	63	750/1196	61	578/951	55	84/153
Previous COPD admission or early discharge scheme	63	1080/1708	67	1721/2554	66	1513/2302	64	335/520

$\chi^2$  test with age group: all  $p < 0.001$  except for sex ( $p = 0.05$ ), other chest problems ( $p = 0.61$ ), diabetes ( $p = 0.04$ ), pack years ( $p = 0.02$ ), and previous COPD admission ( $p = 0.04$ ).